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Arab-Israeli Talks

Subcommittees Continue Talks in Cairo, al-'Arish

NC2511160793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1032 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 25 Nov (MENA)—The security and civilian subcommittees stemming from the Palestinian-Israeli Gaza-Jericho Committee have continued their meetings in Cairo and al-'Arish, discussing a number of issues related to the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

MENA learned that the Security Subcommittee, cochaired by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, and General Amnon Shahaq, Israeli Army deputy chief of staff, will today continue discussing the deployment of Israeli forces inside the Israeli settlements in Gaza and Jericho, the crossing points between these two Palestinian areas and between them and Israel, and the border points between Jericho and Jordan and Gaza and Egypt.

Palestinian sources close to the meetings said there are still differences between the two delegations on the geographic limits of Jericho. The Israeli delegation presented new maps defining the administrative border of Jericho and how it adjoins the Jordanian border.

The maps also indicate the location of the mine fields Israel planted on its border with Jordan to prevent the infiltration of fedayeen into the occupied West Bank.

The Israeli maps also define the sites of three Israeli settlements in the Jericho region. This reduces to less than 30 square kilometers the area that the Israelis want to hand over to the Palestinians. The Palestinians, for their part, demand a withdrawal from the Jericho district as defined before June 1967—an area of about 370 square kilometers.

The Security Subcommittee is also discussing the release of Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons, estimated by Palestinian sources to number 13,000.

Israel released only 600 prisoners at the end of October and then stopped further releases under the pretext that its forces have come under attack by the Palestinians.

The Palestinians threatened to suspend the negotiations and not to sign the agreement on the implementation of Gaza-Jericho, which is scheduled to be signed on 12 December by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, unless the Palestinian delegation received a written commitment that detainees from all factions and trends, including Hamas members, will be released before 13 April, the date the Palestinian self-government authority is scheduled to take over.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian-Israeli Civilian Subcommittee resumed its meetings in al-'Arish, northern Sinai. The Palestinian delegation is headed by lawyer Jamil al-Tarifi, from Gaza, and the Israeli delegation is led by Gadi Zohar, the official in charge of the Israeli Civil Administration on the occupied West Bank.

The subcommittee, which held its first meeting in al-'Arish yesterday, is discussing the transfer of civilian powers in all fields and sectors from the Israelis to the Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho.

The two subcommittees are scheduled to end their meetings in Cairo and al-'Arish today and to resume the discussions next week.

Compromise Over Prisoners Sought at Cairo Talks

NC2411140193 Paris AFP in English 1329 GMT 24 Nov 93

[By Lamia Radi]

[Text] Cairo, Nov 24 (AFP)—The PLO and Israel on Wednesday [24 November] were seeking a compromise for the release of Palestinian prisoners, a hurdle to an accord on an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, a Palestinian official said.

The official, who requested anonymity, gave no details of the secret talks in the Egyptian capital but said he expected the issue of the 11,400 prisoners to be settled by the December 13 deadline for the accord.

"The Israelis gave us proposals for a timetable on the release of the prisoners. We expressed objections to these suggestions and we're trying now to reach a compromise," the official said.

Top Palestine Liberation Organization negotiator Nabil Sha'th said last week he would not sign the withdrawal accord unless the prisoner issue was resolved.

In Athens, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said his country still hoped to start withdrawing from the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho as planned.

But Palestinian officials in Cairo and Amman said the two sides were still far apart on the scope of the withdrawal, boundaries, as well as crossing points with neighboring countries.

In parallel to the Cairo talks, negotiations on the transfer to a civilian Palestinian administration began Wednesday in the Egyptian town of al-'Arish in the Sinai peninsula.

The two sides "will discuss everything concerning civil and economic affairs," said Gadi Zohar, head of the Israeli delegation and director of Israel's civilian administration in the West Bank.

Under the September 13 autonomy accord, Israel's handover of authority in health, education, finance, tourism, transportation, communications and religious affairs is to coincide with its military withdrawal.

The pull-out from Gaza and Jericho is to take four months, ending in April.

The third round of secret talks in Cairo on arrangements for the withdrawal began Tuesday with the focus on "security problems," Palestinian officials said.

But the two sides disagree over the problem of crossing points between Egypt and the Gaza Strip, and between Jericho and Jordan, the Palestinians said.

The geographical limits of the Jericho area and the exact boundaries of Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip also still pose a problem.

"No progress was achieved on the question of Jericho," the Palestinian official in Cairo said Wednesday. "This point is deadlocked."

Salih Ra'fat, a PLO negotiator on autonomy, said meanwhile that Israel "insists on controlling the borders of Gaza with Egypt, wants to put military radar stations on the Gaza coast and police its territorial waters."

Israel "continues to oppose a total withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and speaks only of a redeployment," Ra'fat told AFP in Amman.

The committee discussing the planned withdrawal hit an impasse in Egypt's Red Sea resort of Taba three weeks ago, when the PLO walked out of the talks, accusing Israel of proposing a redeployment.

The negotiators then resumed the talks in secret in Cairo to avoid the glare of publicity.

King Husayn of Jordan also arrived here Wednesday to hold talks on the Middle East peace process with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

The PLO, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon are the four Arab parties negotiating peace with Israel.

Sha'th Notes Israeli 'Obstacles'

NC2511163593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 25 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has stressed that 'Arafat's anticipated visit to Cairo in the next few days has special importance in regard to the peace process, noting the possibility of convening a summit meeting between 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Rabin during this visit. In a statement before leaving Cairo for Paris this morning to join 'Arafat during his current European tour, Sha'th said that the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks have gone a long way and that the Gaza-Jericho Committee talks, despite the fact that they have dealt with all civil and security details and the Israeli withdrawal, have encountered three Israeli obstacles. No progress has been made thus far in these talks, he said.

Sha'th said that the first obstacle in the negotiations with Israel involves defining the area of the Jericho region: Israel still insists on defining a very small area for Jericho that does not exceed the refugees area surrounding it. This area does not exceed 10 percent of the area of the Jericho district recognized before 5 June 1967. He noted that the second obstacle is Israeli insistence on full control of the border areas and crossing points, including the bridges, airports, and ports that link Palestinian territories with the outside world. He said that the continued Israeli insistence nullifies the practical concept of withdrawal and closes the borders with both Egypt and Jordan. These two neighboring countries constitute the Arab depth for the Palestinian entity and open the door for Palestinian economic cooperation with Egypt and Jordan. He pointed out that the third obstacle relates to the release of political detainees and POW's from the occupied territories, noting that their continued detention in Israeli jails after the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli Agreement is tantamount to holding them hostage, which we totally reject.

Sha'th stressed that the time remaining for the negotiators is short and that utmost efforts must be made to drastically amend the Israeli position on these obstacles. He concluded by stressing that the Palestinian party will not sign an agreement on Gaza alone without Jericho, or without the release of the detainees and the setting of a timetable for their release. He stressed that the Palestinians cannot accept Israeli control of the borders and crossing points.

Timetable for Prisoner Release

NC2511204793 Paris AFP in English 1749 GMT 25 Nov 93

[By Clarisse Lucas]

[Excerpt] Cairo, Nov 25 (AFP)—Israeli and PLO negotiators have agreed to include a timetable for the liberation of prisoners in a final accord on Palestinian autonomy but major obstacles remain, Palestinian sources said here Thursday [25 November].

The sources speaking at the end of three days of bilateral talks in Cairo said no agreement on the actual timetable had been reached, any more than on other sticking points like the boundary for Jericho where autonomy is to begin, and the problem of policing the crossing points between the territories and the outside.

"There's no progress index," and the principle of including a yet-to-be-negotiated schedule in the final accord was only obtained after repeated Palestinian requests, a Palestinian source said.

The Palestinians have called for a written agreement as well as a timetable for the liberation of some 12,000 prisoners held by Israel before they sign a final accord.

These issues "remain real problems constituting major obstacles in the way of signing a final accord," the source said. [passage omitted]

Palestinians To Get Air Corridor

TA2511103393 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 25 Nov 93 p 5

[Report from Cairo by Eldad Beck]

[Excerpts] Israel has agreed to the Palestinians demand to provide them with air corridors linking the Gaza Strip and Jericho. The connection between the two areas of the self-government will be maintained via helicopter. [passage omitted]

Major General Amnon Shahaq, head of the Israeli negotiating team, two days ago proposed the establishment of a joint Israeli- Palestinian anti-terror committee. The two sides, however, failed to reach agreement concerning the meaning of the concept terror. [passage omitted]

Agreements Reached at Subcommittee Talks in al-'Arish

NC2511182593 Paris AFP in English 1620 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Al-'Arish, Egypt, Nov 25 (AFP)—The PLO and Israel agreed here Thursday [25 November] on several points for the transfer of civil authority in Jericho and the Gaza Strip, but the Palestinians said they still sought the right to issue passports.

Israel's delegation chief to the talks in this Sinai town, General Gadi Zohar, said: "It was a good and fruitful discussion."

PLO team leader Hasan 'Asfur said the two sides agreed that Palestinians will hold identity cards, but a PLO request for passports was still under negotiation.

He said the Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel agreed on the scope of Palestinian authority regarding "places of worship, fishing, municipalities, civil affairs, land registry, interior affairs, and judicial power."

He refused to give more details.

The talks will focus on the issues of transport, work, electricity, and passports when they resume Tuesday, he said.

'Asfur said he was "satisfied" with the talks that began here Wednesday because of the "specific results" obtained.

He hoped all questions could be resolved by the December 13 deadline set by the autonomy accord signed September 13 in Washington.

The sub-committee on the transfer of civil authority is one of four bodies involved in implementing the autonomy accord.

The committee on the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the occupied territories ended its third round of secret talks on Thursday. It remained deadlocked on the boundaries of the Jericho area, international crossing points and the issue of Palestinian prisoners, PLO officials said.

Palestinian Negotiator Interviewed

JN2511181493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1540 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Telephone interview with lawyer Jamil al-Tarifi, head of the Palestinian side of the Palestinian-Israeli Civilian Subcommittee, by Sa'id Mu'addi on 25 November, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Lawyer Jamil al-Tarifi, head of the Civilian Subcommittee meeting in al-'Arish, good evening.

[Al-Tarifi] Good evening.

[Mu'addi] The meetings of the Civilian Subcommittee ended today in al-'Arish. What are the results of these meetings for this week?

[Al-Tarifi] We have finished discussing some of the committees ideas and endorsed them. We also agreed to meet next week to resume the talks regarding the rest of the authorities and powers.

[Mu'addi] What agreements have been reached on the topics discussed?

[Al-Tarifi] We discussed eight powers or authorities, and agreed to transfer them in full to the Palestinian side.

[Mu'addi] Were there any differences during this week's negotiations?

[Al-Tarifi] There were some differences in views, but I can say that the meeting was conducted in a constructive atmosphere. There was understanding and a real effort to reach results that are satisfactory to both parties and that will implement the agreement.

[Mu'addi] Can we sum up this week of negotiations by saying that progress was made at least in the Civilian Subcommittee meetings?

[Al-Tarifi] I think that some progress was indeed made in the Civilian Subcommittee meetings. There are some powers and authorities that will be discussed next week, and I hope the discussion will be conducted in the same positive spirit as this week.

[Mu'addi] Do you think the timetable set by the agreement, 13 December, can be observed?

[Al-Tarifi] God willing, the talks will end on schedule, and all the powers and authorities will be transferred in accordance with the agreement's timetable.

[Mu'addi] Lawyer Jamil al-Tarifi, head of the Civilian Subcommittee in al-'Arish, thank you very much.

[Al-Tarifi] Thank you.

Sha'th Comments on Prisoner Release, Other Issues

PM2411165093 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 20 Nov 93 pp 1, 36

[Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz report: "Sha'th: From Now On We Will Not Sign Any Agreement With Israel Before There Is a Written Pledge To Release Detainees"]

[Excerpt] Cairo, Tunis, occupied Jerusalem, AL-RIYAD Bureau, news agencies—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to the Palestinian president and head of the Palestinian delegation to the meetings of the Gaza-Jericho Committee currently being held in Cairo, has emphasized that the meetings have been difficult because of the disagreement over the Jericho issue with regard to area. Sha'th said: We are adhering to the clauses stipulated in the Palestinian-Israeli accord signed in Washington.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RIYAD Sha'th added that a Palestinian-Israeli summit will be held in Cairo soon to agree on some issues which cannot be resolved except by the leaders.

Sha'th pointed out that a meeting is currently being held in the French capital, Paris, by the joint Palestinian-Israeli Economic Committee. He said that all the economic aspects of the transfer of authority depend on this meeting, because this meeting is going to lay the foundations on which authority will be transferred from Israeli rule to the Palestinian National Authority. This committee is also entrusted with laying the foundations for cooperation between the Israeli authority and the Palestinian national authority in the stage ahead. The importance of this meeting stems from the fact that all our economic destinies are currently in Israel's hand. That is, we cannot export or import anything except through Israel. Water is in Israel's hands, and the land is in Israel's grip. We should dismantle and get rid of all these restrictions, which put us in Israel's grip, and this will be done through the Paris committee.

In his statement to AL-RIYAD Sha'th demanded that Israel release Palestinian detainees. He said there are 10,000 Palestinian prisoners, and the Palestinian family comprises on average seven to 10 people, so some 100,000 Palestinians are affected by the absence of their breadwinners, and there are thousands of deportees whom Israel pledged to return but it has not fulfilled this pledge. From now on we will not accept any verbal pledges from Israel, nor will we sign a new agreement without the inclusion of a written pledge to release the detainees and a deadline. Israel is urged first to take real measures on the ground to build trust through the pledges which it still has not fulfilled. And the Israeli Government should stop Israeli settlers' violent actions against the Palestinian people's unarmed sons and take responsibility for security.

Sha'th said that Israel must work to build trust and speed up the implementation of the accord on the ground so that Palestinian citizens living under the occupation will feel that the occupation is disappearing and that there is a move forward. Some citizens feel—and their feeling is justifiable—that they have not yet seen on the ground the results of this peace, politically, economically, or morally. Thus the Israeli Government should quickly implement the accord and clearly stop and condemn the crimes committed by settlers, not just demand that the Palestinian side condemn Palestinian violence. Violence should be stopped by both sides, not just one side.

For his part, Muhammad Subayh, secretary of the Palestine National Council, has urged Israel to work to build bridges of trust with the Palestinians, since it is the side which occupied the land by force. Subayh told AL-RIYAD that building trust requires that the Israeli side release all the detainees, that the Israeli Army be withdrawn on the agreed dates, that Israel leaves tax money in the municipalities of West Bank cities and Gaza, and that citizens not be harassed. In his statement to AL-RIYAD Subayh adds that the existence of settlements on Palestinian territory is the cause of current problems in the occupied territories. It is an illegal action which contravenes all international conventions and laws. It is a blatant violation of the fourth Geneva convention, which urges that no demographic change be made in occupied areas. These settlers are of two types: a narrow-minded, fanatical, ideological type and a political type. Successive Israeli governments set up these settlements to seize all the Palestinian territory. The settlers are armed groups who completed their military service and obtained every Israeli support and the right to shoot Palestinian citizens. [passage omitted]

Israelis, Palestinians Hold Economic Talks in Paris

TA2611124893 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Nov 93 p A4

[Report by Judy Maltz]

[Text] The second round of Israeli-PLO economic talks being held in Paris concluded Thursday night in a summit meeting between Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, chairman of the Israeli delegation, and Abu-al-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], chairman of the Palestinian delegation. On their arrival in Paris yesterday, Shohat and Abu-al-'Ala' held separate discussions with their delegations and then met tete-a-tete.

A member of the Israeli delegation said yesterday that Palestinian agricultural produce, which was barred from Israel during the 25 years of occupation, is expected to reach Israeli markets next month, under an economic agreement being worked out between Israel and the PLO.

The deliberations of the three subcommittees—on trade and manpower, taxation, and financial arrangements—continued yesterday. According to both sides, the main sticking point in the talks is expected to be the trade arrangements between Israel and the Palestinians. The Israeli position is that there must be uniformity in customs between both sides in order to permit open borders. On the other side, the Palestinians claim that such a move would prevent them from reaching trade accords with other states; therefore, they oppose the idea. It has been learned that the PLO and Jordan are already discussing a free trade zone between them.

The Israeli official said that "if an accord on trade ties based on free movement of goods is reached, it will also include the agricultural sector."

Referring to allowing Palestinian agricultural produce into Israel, the official said that "from our point of view, that will be a real sacrifice because many Israeli farmers will be hit, but if we are discussing freedom of movement, then that is one of the outcomes."

The official, who refused to be identified, nevertheless noted that economic borders will not be opened immediately because such a move cannot be implemented overnight. "We first have to find a suitable mechanism," he said, adding that the arrangement might also include the rest of the West Bank in the future.

An official source in the Israeli delegation said that this week's deliberations were "very good, businesslike, and conducted in a very open atmosphere. Good personal ties between members of the two delegations were formed." At the same time, it was reported that agreements on the main issues on the agenda have not yet been reached.

The delegations are due to reconvene in Paris on Tuesday for three days. Israeli sources said the aim is to reach agreements in principle by mid-December, the date on which the Gaza-Jericho First agreement is due to start being implemented.

After the subcommittees ended their deliberations at noon on Thursday, the two delegations were invited to the French Foreign Ministry for an official luncheon.

Israel, Jordan To Resume Talks in Washington

TA2411202793 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Here is a report just in: Senior representatives of Israel and Jordan will resume their talks, mainly on economic affairs, in Washington next week. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik has learned that the Americans today sent invitations to both countries. Israel will be represented by Uri Savir, the director general of the Foreign Ministry, and by Dr. Elyaqim Rubinstein, the cabinet secretary and the head of the Israeli delegation to the peace talks with Jordan.

Palestinian Affairs

Hamas Vows More Attacks Following 'Aqil's Death

NC2511143493 Paris AFP in English 1037 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] AMMAN, Nov 25 (AFP) - The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) warned Thursday [25 November] that the killing of the Palestinian Muslim fundamentalist's group military chief would not halt its anti-Israeli attacks.

"The 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam armed wing of Hamas will not be affected by the martyrdom of 'Imad 'Aql, one of the wing's outstanding leaders," said Muhammad Nazzal, the HAMAS representative in Jordan.

"The armed wing will pursue attacks on Israeli soldiers despite 'Aql's martyrdom," Nazzal told AFP.

Israeli soldiers shot and wounded at least 20 Palestinians on Thursday in the occupied Gaza Strip during violent protests against the army's killing of 'Aql the previous night.

'Aql, the 24-year-old leader of 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, was killed in Gaza City after undercover soldiers halted his car.

In Lebanon, 'Adil 'Aql said Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin had last year proposed that his brother 'Imad leave the occupied territories for three years.

"But 'Imad refused," said 'Adil 'Aql, one of the 215 Palestinian deportees left at the Marj al-Zuhur camp in southern Lebanon, who Thursday held a ceremony to honour the fallen leader.

'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the Palestinians deported by Israel from the occupied territories in December 1992, praised the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam leader's operations in Gaza.

"It's thanks to the armed action of 'Imad and his comrades that Gaza has become hell for the occupiers," he told AFP. "That's why the Israelis are pulling out and not because of the masquerade of an Israeli-PLO accord."

Hamas opposes the accord on Palestinian autonomy starting in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Hamas: 'Collaborators' Given 2 Months 'To Repent'

NC2411155693 Paris AFP in English 1503 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Gaza City, Occupied Gaza Strip, Nov 24 (AFP)—The Islamic Resistance Movement HAMAS said it would not execute alleged "collaborators" with Israel for two months to give them time to "repent," in a statement circulated here Wednesday [24 November].

The armed wing of HAMAS, 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, said in the statement dated November 20 it had ordered its members to "suspend the liquidation of traitors until January 20."

"After that date, those who continue on the path of collaboration will be executed," it added.

"We are proposing that they turn over a new leaf. Their last chance is to give themselves up during this period to the HAMAS security services and give all the information they have."

HAMAS and other Palestinian groups opposed to the Israeli-PLO autonomy deal signed on September 13 have stepped up their attacks recently.

"Save your bullets for Israeli soldiers and settlers, against whom the hunt must be pursued and intensified as December 14 approaches," the statement said, referring to the anniversary of the founding of HAMAS in 1987.

The movement called on militants in Fatah—the main faction in the Palestine Liberation Organisation—and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) to "follow the same path" and give "collaborators" a reprieve.

Nearly 1,000 suspected collaborators have been executed since the Palestinian uprising or Intifadah began in December 1987.

The armed wing of Fatah in the occupied territories, the Fatah Hawks, said after the autonomy deal was signed that they were giving up executions of suspected collaborators.

'Arafat, Peres Hold 'Cordial' Phone Conversation

TA2411202393 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] The PLO is having trouble recruiting more than 4,000 men from the ranks of Fatah and the Palestine Liberation Army for service in the territories. Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari notes that notwithstanding reports about preparations to send over 10,000 Fatah warriors to the territories, the PLO is at this point unable to locate most of the men listed in its payroll. 'Arafat would also like to transfer about 2,000 of his fighters from the refugee camps in south Lebanon to the territories.

'Arafat today spoke on the phone with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Athens. Later, he warned against turning Gaza and Jericho to enclaves resembling bantustans. He complained that Israel is not offering a full withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

'Arafat denied giving his commitment to change the structure of the Palestinian Economic Development and Rehabilitation Agency he established and to give up his job as its chairman, as the World Bank has been demanding.

Speaking from Athens, Ahmad al-Tibi, 'Arafat's special adviser, told our correspondent that the conversation between 'Arafat and Peres was cordial and opened with 'Arafat asking Peres in Hebrew: How do you do? Al-Tibi noted that the two men could not meet because both had crowded agendas.

'Arafat Sends 'Urgent' Message to Mubarak

NC2411154093 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Sa'id Kamal, ambassador of the state of Palestine in Cairo, has said that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat today sent an urgent message to President Husni Mubarak on developments in the Palestinian issue. He said the message appeals to President Mubarak to hold contacts on the Arab and international levels to remove the obstacles to the Palestinian issue. The ambassador handed the message to Ambassador Nabil Fahmi, who is the adviser to the foreign minister, today.

Egypt Said Mediating 'Arafat-'Abbas Dispute

PM2611115393 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Nov 93 p 2

[Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi report from Tunis and unattributed AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT report from Cairo: "Egyptian Mediation To End Differences Between 'Arafat and Abu-Mazin Wing"]

[Excerpt] Informed Arab diplomatic sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Egypt is mediating to bridge the gap between the views of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin), who signed the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Washington 13 September.

According to the Arab diplomatic sources, differences of opinion have emerged recently between 'Arafat and Abu-Mazin on numerous issues related to future Palestinian action. A bloc has formed as a result, consisting of Abu-Mazin, Ahmad Quray', Fatah Central Committee member and architect of the secret Oslo negotiations, and, in a cautious way, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member and leader of the Palestinian Democratic Union (Fida). 'Abd-Rabbuh later relented and sent Salih Ra'fat, his representative on the Gaza-Jericho Committee, to join that committee effectively and implement 'Arafat's policy as reflected in his guidelines to Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian side in that committee.

The same sources say that the Egyptian mediation stems mainly from the premise that these differences of opinion do not help progress in the negotiations. [passage omitted]

'Arafat, Italy's Scalfaro Discuss Peace Process

Says Peace 'Will Be Delayed'

LD2511135193 Rome RAI Uno Television Network in Italian 1230 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] A meeting with the Palestinian leader 'Arafat has concluded the state visit of President of the Republic Scalfaro to Tunisia. The leader of the Palestinians announced that peace with Israel will be delayed. He said that he will not go to Jericho before January. Fabrizio Ferragni reports.

[Ferragni] After a one-hour meeting with our head of state here in Carthage, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat announced that for the present the difficulties of putting into practice the peace accords signed with Israel on 13 September have not been overcome. Therefore, it will not be possible, as agreed, to clear the occupied territories of Gaza and Jericho of Israeli soldiers before 13 December. I hope, said 'Arafat, to go to the capital of the autonomous Palestinian state some time during January and February.

'Arafat praised Italy for its work in the peace process. He said that the Italians are the best Arabs [as heard], and that Scalfaro is a true friend. Our head of state declared that he had noted a serious desire on the part of the Palestinians to arrive at a concrete peace. It cannot remain only a signature, he added. According to Scalfaro, the interested countries cannot hold back at this point. Everyone must do their duty until the end.

Scalfaro will end his state visit to Tunisia this afternoon.

'Arafat To Go To Jericho Next Year

LD2511174693 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Palestinian and Italian Presidents 'Arafat and Scalfaro met this morning to discuss the dangers threatening the Middle East peace process, which led to the suspension of the Tabah talks prior to the intervention of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. During this meeting Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat pointed out that the demand for peace is not only a Palestinian and an Israeli demand but an international one. In reply to a question concerning the travel of President 'Arafat to Jericho, the Palestinian president pointed out that he intends to go to Jericho in January or February if a total Israeli withdrawal takes place according to plan and without complications.

The Italian president pointed out that his meeting with 'Arafat was an opportunity to condemn terrorism which remains the number one enemy, particularly at the beginning of the implementation of the peace agreement. The Italian president added that to secure the natural rights of the Palestinians, these rights should enjoy the support of all the states concerned which welcomed the peace agreement. In this connection the Italian president announced his commitment to work so that peace will become a reality in the Middle East.

Further on Meeting

LD2511181293 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee chairman, today held a meeting with Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro. A comprehensive discussion took place concerning the various developments in the Middle East peace process and the efforts that are being made to give them a push forward.

At the meeting, President Scalfaro affirmed Italy's unchanging support for the Palestinian people and for a just and comprehensive peace in the area, as well as Italy's readiness to contribute to the redevelopment and reconstruction of the occupied Palestinian areas, and also the need for and importance of bilateral cooperation in this connection between Italy and the PLO.

The Italian president also talked about the great responsibility being shouldered by the international community for the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and the need to be committed to its execution.

Brother Abu-'Ammar briefed the Italian president on the latest developments in the peace process and the negotiations which are taking place in the Gaza-Jericho committee and the obstacles which are holding up the implementation of the agreement and conditions in the occupied Palestinian areas. [passage omitted]

Senior PLA Officer, 22 Bodyguards Arrive in Gaza

JN2411204193 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] The vanguard of the Palestinian police forces arrived in occupied Gaza Strip yesterday, led by a senior Palestine Liberation Army [PLA] officer. Major General Ziyad 'Arif said: I have come here carrying orders from Palestinian President brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to establish a new Palestinian police force in the Gaza Strip and Jericho area.

Maj. Gen. 'Arif arrived accompanied by two officers holding the rank of colonel, as well as 22 bodyguards, who have completed a two-month training course in Egypt.

Maj. Gen. 'Arif performed prayers as soon as he arrived. He said: It was a great day to me. I left in 1967 and swore that I would kiss the soil as soon as I returned. He said: The Palestinian police force would be modern and would respect human rights because we have come to protect our brothers. He added: We will start work at the PLO offices in Gaza tomorrow.

Units from the Fatah Movement in Lebanon are also preparing to join the PLA forces to enter Gaza and Jericho, Palestinian military sources confirmed.

Fatah Lebanon Fighters To Join Police Force

NC2511074193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Palestinian sources have disclosed that the Fatah leadership in Tunis has advised the Fatah leadership in Lebanon of its decision to transfer approximately 1,000 Fatah officers and fighters from Beirut to a location outside Lebanon in preparation for their joining the Palestinian police force in Gaza and Jericho.

$400 Million To Transfer PLO Police Requested

TA2511122493 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 25 Nov 93 pp 1, 4

[Report by Aharon Klein]

[Excerpt] Senior Palestinian security sources assess it will cost approximately $400 million to move the PLO forces from Arab countries to the territories. They divulged that 'Arafat has requested a loan to this tune from the World Bank to finance the move. 'Arafat has also asked the United States to arm the Palestinian police with the surplus of the U.S. Expeditionary Force, which is slated to leave Somalia within several months.

The security sources explained that the huge costs also include the indirect costs of moving the thousands of policemen currently located in Jordan, Egypt, Yemen, Sudan, and Tunisia—most of them members of the Palestine Liberation Army.

'Arafat explained that he wants to receive the equipment during the evacuation of U.S. force from Somalia on 21 March 1994, assuming that the Americans will prefer to leave some of the equipment rather than taking it back to the United States, something which will be very expensive. 'Arafat is interested, among other things, in light armored vehicles that are being used by the U.S. forces in Somalia. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Appoints Heads of Security Services

LD2411111993 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] President of the state of Palestine Yasir 'Arafat has appointed the heads of the Palestinian security services, and has decided to send 500 policemen from Tunisia to Gaza and Jericho during the next eight days.

An informed Palestinian source pointed out today that this decision was made during a meeting held by 'Arafat in Tunis with a number of PLO officials.

On the other hand, the president of the state of Palestine decided to appoint three people to head the Palestinian intelligence apparatus which includes the unified security and central security apparatuses.

DFLP Calls For Referendum on Autonomy Accord

NC2511072293 Paris AFP in English 0056 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Nicosia, Nov 25 (AFP)—The hardline Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) called Wednesday [24 November] for a Palestinian referendum on the September 13 accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

In a statement received here, Nayif Hawatimah's movement, which opposes the deal on limited Palestinian autonomy, said it believed "the accord and the future of the Palestinian people should be put to a general referendum."

The victory of anti-accord hardliners from the Islamic resistance movement Hamas, who swept the board Wednesday [24 November] in the university council elections at the West Bank's Bir Zeit University near Jerusalem, underlined the need for a poll, it said.

The result had ousted PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's mainstream Fatah Movement from the council, and showed that "the majority of young Palestinians are opposed to the accord and to concessions which prejudice the rights of the Palestinian people," the statement said.

Hamas campaigned on a "Jerusalem first" platform, warning against a hasty compromise on the status of Jerusalem, which hardliners want as the capital of a future Palestinian state.

Algeria

Nine Police Killed in 24 Nov Ambush

NC2511073293 Paris AFP in English 0213 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Algiers, Nov 25 (AFP)—Nine policemen were killed and two others were hurt when they were ambushed Wednesday [24 November] by Moslem fundamentalists in the southeastern suburb of El-Harrash, according to an unconfirmed report in the daily LIBERTE Thursday [25 November].

The paper said the policemen were clearing a barricade on the Ben Ghazi bridge on the outskirts of El-Harrash when they came under fire from fundamentalist gunmen.

In a separate incident, 45-year-old Berkane Serraye, the clerk of court at Blida, 50 kilometres (32 miles) south of Algiers, was shot dead late Tuesday by gunmen who got away, police said Wednesday, without giving further details.

And 73-year-old Abdelkader Menzou, the imam of Ouled Mohamed, west of Algiers, was shot dead Tuesday by three fundamentalist gunmen, police said.

Eleven civilians have been killed this month in attacks the authorities blamed on fundamentalists, according to an unofficial toll.

Meanwhile seven fundamentalists were jailed for up to 10 years Tuesday by a special court in Oran in western Algeria for attempted murder, court sources said.

Since three special courts in Oran, Algiers and Constantine in eastern Algeria began hearing cases on February 22, they have sentenced 371 people to death, jailed 108 for life and handed down more than 700 custodial sentences of up to 20 years, according to unofficial statistics.

More than half the death sentences were passed in absentia. Twenty people have been executed since August.

Also Wednesday, a lawyer for French fundamentalist convert Roger Guyan, who was sentenced to death last December by a court in Tiaret in western Algeria, said his client had refused to appeal for clemency.

Guyan, who has taken the name Abdelkarim, was arrested in western Algeria in June 1991 in possession of arms and explosives for the banned Islamic Salvation Front's "holy war".

His lawyer Mahmoud Khelili said Guyan had refused to plead for his life because "some people prefer to die standing up than to live on their knees.

His Algerian wife was expected in Algiers late Wednesday in a bid to make him change his mind.

A French foreign ministry spokeswoman in Paris said Wednesday the French government wanted the sentenced commuted to life imprisonment, and said France's ambassador to Algeria, Bernard Kessedjian, was approaching the Algerian authorities with the request.

The Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) won a decisive victory in the first round of elections on December 26, 1991, but a hastily convened High Committee of State cancelled the second round. A state of emergency was declared in March 1992 and the FIS was dissolved by court order.

Hamas Leader Comments on HCE Statement

LD2411163393 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Statement by Mahfoud Nahnah, leader of the Islamic Society Movement, Hamas, on the 23 November statement of the Higher State Council, on 24 November; place not given—recorded]

[Text] The latest statement, issued by the Higher State Council [HCE] yesterday, Tuesday, carried a clear reply to those who preach exclusion and rejection of dialogue. It also carried a clear reply to those who preach a military solution to the crisis and also to some political movements which, as we see, are engaging in great one-upmanship.

It seems that the National Dialogue Commission has carried out its mission faithfully, particularly regarding proposals and requests to the HCE. The HCE has complied with some of the requests and proposals so that we are able to continue the dialogue and proceed peacefully, God willing, toward the forthcoming national conference. This requires sacrifice from all sincere and patriotic people, men of political action, and the political class. The reason for this is that the conference has become a national necessity and the duty of all sincere people.

Moreover, we would like to say that Algeria has really wasted a great deal of time recently because several parties have been beating around the bush and maneuvering. It would have been possible for us to obtain the result of this HCE statement at the lowest of costs and without having successive governments threatening the political arena. It is clear that the success of the dialogue, the national conference, and other things depends on putting an end to the security abuses, administrative repressions, and media attacks. This includes releasing people from prison, particularly those against whom no clear charge has been made.

Attention is drawn to the inclusion of some groups, which were banned from the dialogue and the political solution, wise people from the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] who have been described in a different manner. We say, however, that this would be on the basis that they could help to solve the crisis in society, because they belong to the sons of this people and cannot be outside the field of political action. At the same time, it is an opportunity for the National Dialogue Commission, parties, the authorities, and the military establishment to find a formula, on the basis of everyone's participation in a comprehensive solution, with all courage, in order to ensure Algeria's salvation and reach the shores of safety. This has nothing to do with dealing in the name of one group or another. Many personalities and parties are now trying to deal in the name of this FIS while its members are still present and alive. Therefore, we say that the participation of citizens in making the efforts for dialogue successful and participation in the national conference, with all personalities and parties, is not compatible with the groups which these days call for strikes, although there is no doubt that their demands are legitimate. The circumstances, however, are not suitable at all. God forbid that they should lead to a great danger. Thus, we say that these days, rubbing salt in painful wounds by those who have sought to stir up trouble could cause the dialogue to reach a dead end—God forbid. For this reason, all sincere people are called on not to spread disturbances, chaos, violence, and hatred among citizens. Frankly, Hamas calls with all its heart for all partners and sincere people to rise above their immediate concerns and their narrow party interests and look to the wide horizons of Algeria, so that we may light candles, wipe away tears, and eliminate all forms of evil.

Hamas Holds Meeting; Leader Speaks

LD2611002593 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] The Islamic Society Movement, Hamas, held a political meeting today in Ouargla at which the movement's leader, Mr. Mahfoud Nahnah, analyzed the various aspects of the crisis in Algeria. Mahfoud Nahnah also reviewed the solutions that could be adopted to get out of the crisis.

[Begin Nahnah recording] There is still much good left in Algeria which Algerians [word indistinct] to arrive at the shore with a few steps, cooperating with each other so that we can reach the further shore where there is security, safety, and stability. It is our view that there will only be stability, confidence or trust with the following conditions: First; we respect this nation. Second, we respect the nation's decision. In the name of Islam, the nation has the right to decide. In the name of democracy, the nation has the right to decide. In the name of the republic, the nation has the right to decide. In the name of patriotism, the nation has the right to decide. They should not deceive the people. The religious man should not deceive the people. He who says: I am a patriot, should not deceive the people. He who says: I am a democrat, should not deceive the people. And he who says: I am a republican, should not deceive the people. [end recording]

'Republicans' Form New Movement, Elect Committee

LD2611083193 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Excerpts] A meeting of republicans has resulted in the birth of the Movement for the Republic [MPR]. It also resulted in the adoption of a number of recommendations, and in particular the holding of the first session of the republicans next March. [passage omitted]

The newly created MPR, according to an approved statement, will operate within the framework of the mobilization and cohesion of republicans, without touching the sensitivity of the participants. The movement will also entrust a provisional national committee with the task of finding ways and means to ensure a maximum cohesion and the mobilization of the republican framework. The provisional national committee will also be in charge of holding the next sessions of republicans in March 1994 at the latest in order to evaluate their activity. [passage omitted]

The speeches at today's meeting all dealt with items on an agenda, which included the economic aspect. Speakers called for the need to reexamine the methods of running the economy through the principle of free enterprise and free trade unions, which provide the conditions for entering the market economy. The speakers also insisted that the state must not intervene in the material [as heard] nonstrategic production. According to the speakers, this requires an economic open-door policy, which includes the need to convert the national currency along with the possibility of drawing-up different rates of exchange. [passage omitted]

Concerning foreign policy, the participants tackled the subject from the angle of the Algerian revolution radiating on the Arab Maghreb region and Africa, and the relationship of the area with the northern region of the Mediterranean.

Mr. Mechat, a meeting committee member, proposed a list of names for membership of the provisional national committee, among whom we find in particular Said Sadi [leader of the Rally for Culture and Democracy], Khalida Messaoudi, Aziouz Mokhtari and Mrs. Grifot. The committee, which was approved, is made up of 21 members.

Egypt

Attack on Prime Minister Sidqi Injures Passersby

NC2511131793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] An explosive device believed to have been planted in a car parked along the al-Khalifah al-Ma'mun Road just before it intersects with al-Maqrizi Street went off today as the cars of Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and his security motorcade were passing. Dr. Sidqi's car was damaged slightly, and the windshields of the two guard cars were smashed. Neither the prime minister nor his accompanying guards were hurt.

Nine citizens, including four female students from the al-Maqrizi training school, were injured. A 15-year-old girl, believed to be a student at the same school, died in the explosion. Fire brigades are now working to put out the fire, which extended to nine cars near the scene of the explosion. The cars suffered varying amounts of damage. The injured were taken to the nearest hospitals for the necessary treatment. The Interior Ministry will announce details after the investigations are completed.

Interior Ministry officials went to the scene immediately, and the region is now being combed in search of the perpetrators and other suspects.

This afternoon, Dr. 'Atif Sidqi received Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid; Information Minister Dr. Safwat al-Sharif; Education Minister Husayn Baha'-al-Din; and Dr. Kamal al- Shadhili, minister of state for the People's Assembly and Consultative Council affairs.

Al-Jihad Group Claims Responsibility

NC2511130193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1253 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] A booby-trapped car exploded some 500 meters from the house of Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi. The blast destroyed two cars destroyed, and damaged others.

Al-Jihad Group sent a statement to an international news agency, claiming responsibility for the explosion. It said that the operation was carried out to avenge the blood of martyrs and the death sentences.

Al-Jihad Promises More Operations

NC2511191593 Bshamun Future Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Dispatch from Cairo by Muhammad al-Shadhili]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The motorcade of Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi was today subjected to an assassination attempt, in which a booby-trapped car was detonated as Dr. Sidqi was heading from his home in Heliopolis to his office in central Cairo. A girl was killed in the operation and 12 citizens, including four school girls, were wounded. A total of six cars were burned at the scene of the incident.

Following the incident, the banned al-Jihad group claimed responsibility for the operation. A statement distributed by an unidentified source said the Yahia Hashim Platoon was responsible for carrying out the operation. The statement added that operations will continue against Egyptian officials until Egypt is liberated from American and Zionist occupation.

The Egyptian security agencies have launched a massive dragnet in search of the perpetrators.

Source of Explosion Discussed

NC2511182393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 25 Nov (MENA)—A preliminary security report about the abortive attack on Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi indicates that the explosion did not result from a car bomb but from an explosive device weighing between 8 and 10 kg, placed under a car and detonated by a timer.

A security source said in a statement this evening that the huge explosion shattered glass as far as 2 km away.

Casualty Toll Updated

NC2511195093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1920 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 25 Nov (MENA)—A responsible security source in the Interior Ministry has stated that 18 persons were injured by the explosion that took place on the al-Khalifah al-Ma'mun road, while the car of Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and those of his guards were passing today. The injured are: Nihal Mahmud Kamil, a 13-year old student at al-Maqrizi Experimental School; Rashad Mahmud Muhammad, an 11-year old student at the same school; Tariq Muhammad 'Abd-al-'Alim, a 14-year old student at the same school; Suha Muhammad Samir, an 11-year student at the same school; Thurayya 'Abd-al-Majid Hasan, a teacher at the same school; Nida' Husam-al-Din, six years old; Hasan 'Abdallah al-Rashidi, a merchant from the town of Kum Umbu; Brigadier General Faraj Muhammad Faraj 'Isa; Mustafa Mursi Muhammad, a 33-year old taxi driver; Mahir George Antoine; and Khalil 'Abd-al-Majid Muhammad, an army conscript. Seven workers who happened to be working in a neighboring building under construction were injured.

A student from the Al-Khalifah al-Ma'mun Experimental School, al-Shayma' Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim, was killed. The explosion also burned seven cars and smashed the windows of a nine-story building under construction near the scene of the incident as well as the windows of the al-Maqrizi School.

The security source noted that Divine Providence intervened to save the lives of the school children from this cowardly act.

Mubarak Orders Treatment Abroad for Injured Girl

NC2511174193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1657 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 25 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has ordered that student Nida' Husam-al-Din Nafi', age 6, be sent immediately abroad for treatment if her condition demands.

The student suffered brain damage resulting from the abortive attack on the prime minister this afternoon. She was taken to Manshiyat al-Bikri Hospital for the necessary treatment and later moved to the specialized 'Ayn Shams hospital.

As you know, President Mubarak earlier issued instructions to have all victims of terrorism treated abroad if their condition demands it.

Police Round Up 100 Suspects

NC2611121893 Paris AFP in English 1151 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, Nov 26 (AFP)—Egyptian police have rounded up 100 Muslim fundamentalist suspects after the bomb attack on Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi which missed its target but killed a schoolgirl, police said Friday.

They also said the bombers had used a remote-controlled device under a car for Thursday's attack in the northern Cairo suburb of Heliopolis that killed the 12-year-old girl outside a school and injured 21 others.

Most of the 100 suspects were detained in the northern suburbs.

Police voiced doubts over the claim sent to foreign news agencies that al-Jihad, which assassinated former president Anwar Sadat in 1981, had carried out the bombing near Sidqi's home.

The underground group has been weakened over the past few years, they said, suggesting the claim was designed to put police off the trail of the real perpetrators.

Sidqi narrowly escaped the blast, the latest round of a war between Islamic militants and the government of President Husni Mubarak that has claimed more than 230 lives since March 1992.

Sidqi Promises 'All-Out Confrontation' Against 'Terrorists'

NC25[illegible]42793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1310 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Statement by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi following a meeting of the Economic Ministerial Group at the Prime Minister's Office in Cairo—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God the Compassionate, the Merciful. Thank God. The incident took place at approximately 1210 or 1215 today while I was on my way to the office, about four or five minutes after I had left home. We were going downtown along the al-Khalifah al-Ma'mun Street. There was a guard car in front of me and another car to my right. Approximately 25 or 30 meters before we reached al-Maqrizi School, an explosion took place between the first and the second car; that is, the first guard car and the car I was in. It was a very powerful explosion, I believe, but of course the investigations will determine all these things. Neither I nor the guards stopped, because the best thing to do was to get away from the scene of the incident as quickly as possible. Only the glass in the front guard car was smashed by the explosion. In our car, nothing happened, thank God, and we actually continued to drive on, and the driver of the front guard car continued to drive, too. The windows of the second guard car were also hit by shrapnel. We did not stop, continuing on until I reached the Prime Minister's Office.

I believe it was either a bomb placed in the street or a booby-trapped car. The investigations will determine all these things. Thank God, neither I nor any of the guards was hurt. This points to the fact that most of those injured were not among the guards or the people targeted by the explosion. Innocent bystanders in the street were injured, and this is what I have just been told. Eleven people were injured. They were bystanders—mostly school children. An innocent 15-year-old girl who was standing at a bus stop or walking to the bus stop—all this will be determined by the investigations—was killed, and she is a martyr in the full sense of the word because she was an innocent girl who had nothing to do with anything. These innocent children—their ages are not known yet—who were injured have nothing to do with anything. This is indeed a cause for sadness and sorrow, but in the meantime it will increase our determination to confront these terrorists using all means and without letting up. I say this now, in a moment of extreme anger, but there never was, and will never be, any other way but all-out confrontation against these people. This has become a binding necessity—and not because I was the target today. In fact, all of Egypt and all Egyptian people are now targeted by this sabotage, and I am not talking about the immediate effects, because in the end there is a time for all of us to die. But while rebuilding Egypt, such acts obstruct the reform process and any political, economic, or social accomplishments we are trying to achieve, and they raise questions about who is behind these people. I do not believe that those responsible for this are the two, three, four, or five individuals who organized this explosion. There is no doubt that there are other groups behind them, and the danger lies in these behind-the-scenes groups.

I would like to assure you that I, and the entire government, will not allow any letup in deterring these people. They may succeed once, but they will not succeed every time. In the end, this terrorism will have to be eliminated because it is not in the interest of Egypt, its economy, or the reforms taking place in its territory. I do not believe—and this is very important—that such acts reflect a specific doctrine by these people. I believe it reflects a desire to cause sabotage and chaos for the sake of those who do not wish Egypt well or those who want to obstruct its progress. We will not permit them to do so, and we will not give them any room to do so.

There is something that I would like to mention: I want to express my deepest condolences to the family of the girl who was a victim and my sorrow to the families of the injured. The government will pay for the treatment, if any, of the wounded and will compensate the family of the victim, once things become clearer in the afternoon, at the latest, God willing. Thank you.

Chairs Ministerial Economic Group Meeting

NC2511145493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 25 Nov (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi today held a meeting with the expanded ministerial economic group.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif stated that the ministers discussed a number of financial and economic policy issues and reviewed the various components of the economic reform program in the coming stage in preparation for the forthcoming visit of the IMF mission to Egypt. The reform program is proceeding satisfactorily in achieving the anticipated results, which are acceptable to the international financial institutions.

He added that the ministers also reviewed the unified taxation bill, which will also be discussed by the National Democratic Party in several sessions, beginning on Sunday.

The information minister stressed that the unified taxation law will have no effect on the salaries of state employees or employees in the public and private sectors. He noted that the unified taxation law will prevent double taxation, thus benefiting the taxpayers.

Jordan's King Husayn Arrives for Brief Visit

NC2411111593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 24 Nov (MENA)—King Husayn of Jordan and his accompanying delegation arrived in Cairo at noon today on a brief visit to Egypt. President Husni Mubarak led the well-wishers at Cairo International Airport and accompanied him to the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis.

Meets Mubarak

NC2411133393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1155 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 24 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Jordan's King Husayn resumed their talks during an expanded meeting attended by members of the two delegations. Earlier, the two leaders had a one-hour closed meeting.

Present at the talks on the Egyptian side were Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, Defense Minister Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Minister of Manpower Ahmad al-'Amawi, and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs. On the Jordanian side, the talks were attended by Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali; al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the royal court; Marwan al-Qasim, political adviser to the king; Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad, military secretary to the king; and Jordanian Ambassador in Cairo Nayif Sa'ud al-Qadi.

Husayn, Mubarak Hold News Conference

NC2411175093 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1603 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Statements by President Husni Mubarak and King Husayn of Jordan at a news conference in the presidential headquarters in Cairo on 24 November, followed by questions from identified and unidentified correspondents—recorded]

[Text] [Mubarak] We welcome His Majesty King Husayn to the Arab Republic of Egypt. Although there have long been no visits, we never stopped coordinating from time to time. Today, we discussed coordinating a Palestinian solution, bilateral relations, and the various issues of interest to us in the Middle East. I reiterate my welcome to my brother His Majesty King Husayn to the Arab Republic of Egypt. We always wish him success and confirm the strength of relations. Thank you.

[Husayn] Your Excellency Brother President: I am very happy to have this opportunity again to meet my brother and to visit Cairo. We seized this opportunity to discuss all the important issues at this delicate and promising stage. Thank God, I think—and as we said at the beginning—we are brothers who see things the same. I am very happy that we discussed bilateral relations and the issue we are tackling. We ask God to grant us success to bequeath to future generations a just and comprehensive peace that they can enjoy, safeguard, and from which they can benefit. We are very proud of [word indistinct], reassured, and satisfied that we are beginning the march anew on solid ground as brothers and comrades. Thank you, Mr. President.

[Correspondent] President Husni Mubarak, my question to you: Do you still think that Syria and Israel can reach agreement very soon?

[Mubarak] I would like to say that my conviction is that both sides want peace, that Syria wants peace just as Israel wants peace. Perhaps there were some obstacles, but in principle, I think our brothers in Syria want to negotiate seriously to solve this problem. Negotiations could begin soon between Israel and our brothers in Syria. Let us wait until the U.S. secretary of state arrives in the first week of next month. Perhaps this will serve to boost the peace process.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty King Husayn, do you maintain your assurance to Syria that you will not sign a separate agreement with Israel, especially as it has been reported that the United States has promised to give you economic aid and to cancel your debts in return for concluding an agreement with Israel?

[Husayn] I think the scope must be defined as follows: We have always sought a comprehensive and just peace, a peace that gives everyone the chance to live in a different atmosphere throughout the area. We are committed to working to achieve this objective and to fulfilling our role and duty to future generations. I think we started from the same point—in Madrid, Moscow, and then the United States. Jordan provided the umbrella enabling the brother Palestinians to act in the way they did. The Palestinian issue is the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict. We blessed and welcomed the move and described it as courageous by the two sides. We still appeal to our brother Palestinians to meet and remain as one rank in this process until they achieve their objectives and purposes.

We have started on the path and signed the agenda agreement, which we delayed until major progress was made on the Palestinian-Israeli track. We have begun to negotiate and contacts are continuing. Signing a peace agreement is not as simple as it is portrayed; it is not simply signing a document. There are many and varied issues and there is an agenda. When progress is achieved and agreement is reached on all the important points, peace, the peace treaty, or the peace agreement will crown the efforts being made. I cannot predict when these efforts will end, but we are on the way. I reiterate what my brother his excellency the president said: There is a commitment by all the Arab parties concerned, and I think Israel too, to achieve a comprehensive solution. We hope there is a goal and we seek to achieve it.

[Correspondent] Shafiq Gabay, Middle East affairs editor of the Israeli newspaper MA'ARIV. His Majesty King Husayn: We were very happy—I mean most Israeli people—following the meetings between Israeli and Jordanian officials. Has the peace process between Israel and Jordan made headway, bearing in mind that there aren't many differences with Jordan over Jordanian territory? As you know, sir, the negotiations with the Palestinians in Cairo are going well.

[Husayn] Thank you. I am happy to have this opportunity to answer your question. As I said a short time ago, talks are taking place with different results. We hope the results will meet our expectations to bequeath to future generations a chance to live in different conditions than those in which we live and within a just, permanent, and comprehensive peace.

[Correspondent in English with superimposed Arabic summary of the question and answer by an unidentified off-screen announcer] Asked how long Jordan might wait for an agreement between Syria and Israel, King Husayn said: We are both committed to a just peace; it is not a question of waiting. We are negotiating now and the Jordanian-Israeli track may be the most complicated. King Husayn expressed the hope that an agreement will be reached on all the issues that are being discussed. We are discussing the subjects on the agenda signed with Israel and we hope progress will be made in this respect. I am convinced that the other parties will achieve progress in this direction.

[Correspondent] King Husayn, there is no doubt that the challenges of peace are fiercer than those of war. Where will the Jordanian economy be when it faces the more dynamic Israeli economy? Will this topic be addressed in the context of Jordanian-Israeli peace agreements?

[Husayn] Sir, there are various aspects to this question. One is Jordanian-Palestinian and the other is Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli. We are not afraid of peace. And we are not afraid of the negative economic repercussions that some believe may accompany it. We have great potential. First, we must deal with the heart of the matter, that is, move from our current situation to one in which the people—all the people—feel reassured about peace, about the change in their lives under peace, about the things that the future holds for them.

We should involve the world with us in addressing the needs of the people, because peace is not just signing papers, but creating a new situation, one that all the people sense and cherish.

When all this happens, I don't think there will be any danger. We can achieve integration and cooperation in a way that would benefit everyone and change the entire region, God willing, into something new, different from anything in recent memory.

[Correspondent in English] President Mubarak, Israel has been insisting on open borders, exchange of trade, embassies, as a condition for peace with Syria. Is there any progress on this aspect?

[Cooespondent and Mubarak in English with superimposed Arabic summary by the announcer] President Mubarak answered a question on Israel's insistence on open borders and the exchange of ambassadors and trade as a condition for making peace with Syria and on whether there is progress in this respect. He answered by saying that peace involves diplomatic relations, open borders, and normalizing relations between countries. I think Syria understands this well, but it is a matter of time. Mubarak added that the problem stems from a lack of mutual confidence needed to start the peace process. He pointed out that the cornerstone of peace is mutual understanding among the concerned parties.

[Mubarak in English; reply in progress] ... to start the process, but the main... [pauses] The cornerstones [as heard] of peace is well-understood on both sides.

[King Husayn in English] And, if I may add just one point. I believe that ...

[Husayn in English with superimposed Arabic summary by the announcer] Answering the same question, the Jordanian king said: I believe the issue of borders is the problem. Once each side learns its borders, and I hope this will happen, the problem will be solved.

[Correspondent in English] Your Majesty, please. There have been reports that you have a proposal concerning Jerusalem that you will submit to U.S. Secretary Warren Christopher.

[Correspondent and Husayn in English with superimposed Arabic summary by the announcer] The Jordanian king was asked about reports that he has proposals for Jerusalem and whether these will be discussed during the coming visit to the region by the U.S. secretary of state. King Husayn answered: I have no proposals to submit to Christopher or anyone else. But I hope the holy city of Jerusalem will be a point for all religions and nations to converge.

[King Husayn in English] [words indistinct] of all the followers of the three great monotheistic religions. All the children of Abraham, in a context of peace. And I have made it very clear that as far as I am concerned, the sovereignty over these places must be to the almighty God.

[Correspondent] Do you think, Your Majesty, that your visit to Cairo is a sign that relations have returned to normal, especially following the Gulf war?

[King Husayn] For me this is ...

[Mubarak interrupts] There is no problem.

[King Husayn] This is how I feel...

[Mubarak interrupts] As long as there are visits and exchanges... [pauses] As the popular saying goes: We are all in the same boat. We have one cause in common. I believe that normal relations are necessary. But there have been relations for some time. There has been no break in relations. Coordination continues. Earlier, our foreign minister went there with messages several times. There is no problem in this respect. Thank you.

King Husayn Departs

NC2411145493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1425 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 24 Nov (MENA)—Jordan's King Husayn left Cairo this afternoon following a quick visit that lasted several hours. The king held talks with President Husni Mubarak on several important issues.

Deputy Speaker of Israeli Knesset Arrives for Talks

NC2411222293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2130 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 24 Nov (MENA)—Salih Tarif, deputy speaker of Israel's Knesset, arrived in Cairo tonight from Tel Aviv on a three-day visit to Egypt.

In an arrival statement, Tarif said that he will meet during the visit with a number of Egyptian officials to review the Israeli-Palestinian talks now being held in Cairo.

The Knesset's deputy speaker said that there has been tangible progress in Palestinian-Israeli relations as a result of the current talks, despite the isolated incidents triggered by some Palestinian groups.

Asked whether there are secret meetings between Syria and Israel, the Israeli official said that he has no knowledge of such meetings. He expressed his hope for closer relations with Syria, a country that he described as having a pivotal role in the peace process.

Tarif said that it is hard to make progress in the talks with any side without reaching a settlement with Syria. Israel is aware of the importance of improved ties with Syria and is trying to remove all the obstacles blocking this objective.

The Israeli official said that there is goodwill on his government's side. The Israeli Government, he added, is doing everything possible to achieve positive results with Syria similar to those achieved with the Palestinians.

David Sultan, Israel's ambassador to Cairo, and the staff of the Israeli Embassy welcomed Tarif at the airport.

Israeli Official Arrives

NC2211071393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2255 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 Nov (MENA)—Israeli Deputy Agriculture Minister Boher Eltz [name and title as received] and his accompanying delegation arrived in Cairo this evening on a visit of several days. In an arrival statement, he said that he will hold talks with senior officials of the Agriculture Ministry on ways of bolstering cooperation between the two countries in various agricultural fields.

Musa Comments on Golan Heights

NC2511193093 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said today that a move on the part of Israel, such as recognizing Syria's sovereignty over the Golan Heights, could revive the peace talks between Syria and Israel.

In an interview with a REUTER correspondent, Musa said that Syria felt frustrated when Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that his country might need time to absorb the historic peace agreement with the Palestinians, which was signed in September, before moving forward with Damascus.

Answering a question about the effect of Israel's recognition of Syria's sovereignty over the Golan, he said this would be a good move. It would facilitate the development of this issue and create an atmosphere of confidence between the two countries.

Musa Previews Talks With Christopher

NC2611100193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0935 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 26 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that the talks he will hold with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during his visit to Cairo at the end of next week will focus on ways to boost the region's peace efforts and on the need to achieve progress on every track. He added that the talks will also cover the need to implement the Israeli-Palestinian Accord and Israel's complete withdrawal from the Golan.

In a statement today, he noted that Egypt's stance on the peace process is based on supporting the Arab position and achieving an Israeli withdrawal according to the Israeli-Palestinian accord signed in Washington on 13 September. He remarked that Egypt is holding contacts to back the Arab position on the level of the parties concerned with the peace process.

Christopher's visit to Cairo is part of a tour that will take him to several regional countries.

Egyptian Officials Contact Somali Factions' Representatives

NC2611122493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 26 Nov (MENA)—MENA has learned that contacts between Egyptian officials and representatives of Somali factions visiting Cairo are under way to implement the resolutions of the Addis Ababa conference on Somali reconciliation. Another four-day meeting on Somalia is scheduled for Addis Ababa on Sunday.

Somali sources in Cairo say the Somali factions involved in the contacts are satisfied with the Egyptian moves and initiatives, which aim to achieve peace and security in Somalia. They stressed that the Egyptian efforts will produce positive results before the international forces withdraw from the country in the spring.

Islamists Win 7 Elections at Cairo University

LD2311193193 Tehran IRNA in English 1834 GMT 23 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 23, IRNA—Despite the exclusion of a large number of Islamic-oriented students from university elections and vote rigging, Islamists in Cairo University won in seven colleges including those of medicine, engineering, political sciences, economy, veterinary medicine and archaeology. Egyptian Islamic paper AL-SHA'B Tuesday reported that election will be repeated today in five other colleges. Student elections in Egyptian universities began Sunday [20 November]. Cairo daily AL-WAFD also said elections in most faculties will be repeated today because the minimum percentage of 30 percent of the voters was not fulfilled.

University students in Cairo were to hold a press conference Tuesday to announce the number of Islamist students whose names were struck off from the electoral list, and to take decisive steps against vote rigging, AL-SHA'B reported.

Hatim Zayd, president of Cairo University students' union, described the elections as a "big comedy" and added that students would file cases against the minister of education and university presidents.

In Hilwan University names of all Islamist candidates in the colleges of education and art were struck off from the electoral roll. In the enginering college in the town of Suez security authorities banned 110 Islamists out of the 140 candidates from taking part in elections. 30 pro-regime students were elected in the college.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Rally, Condemns UN Sanctions

LD2411200193 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Speech by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to "the masses" protesting UN sanctions on Libya; in Tripoli on 24 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Yet another huge gathering of the masses of Tripoli has taken to the streets to welcome the brother leader of the revolution in a show of steadfastness and defiance in preparation for the confrontation. Just as the masses chanted slogans in Misratah, Zlitan, al-Khums, and Qasr Bin Ghashir, loudly making their voices heard, challenging the blockade and the conspiracy of the enemies who are laying in wait, the masses of Tripoli, which rubbed shoulders with the brother leader of the revolution, chanted loudly their strong defiance of the blockade and their unyielding determination to be steadfast and face up to the new colonial, crusader-like assault led by the western states against the Great Jamahiriyah, thereby targeting the Arab nation as a whole. Amid the thundering chants of the masses, the brother leader of the revolution delivered the following address:

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Brothers, I greet the popular masses of the great and eternal city of Tripoli, in this great festival of theirs, the festival of steadfastness, defiance and preparedness for confrontation. Eternal Tripoli, with its masses that gathered today, with its millions, addresses the strongest message to the forces of colonialism that believe that they have been able to decide what they want and to repress peoples with their resolutions. To hell, to hell one thousand times to the forces of colonialism, to the resolutions of the forces of colonialism. It is people that have the last say. It is people that decide.

It is the strongest message the great Libyan people sends today from the eternal city of Tripoli, from this square crowded with millions of angry masses, defiant masses with high morale. It is the strongest message sent today to the Western states, to the leaders of colonialism, to the forces of infringement, which belittle people. Brothers, they have decided to block the sun's rays from reaching others, from the planet earth, from mankind, but the sun shines for all, and they do not know this fact brothers. The colonial Western states continue their tyranny, showing contempt of the right of people to life and self-determination. They show contempt for the right of the Somali people, the Libyan people, the Yugoslav people, the Vietnamese people, the Cuban people, the people of Haiti, the Palestinian people, the Lebanese people, and all the people that aspire for a free and dignified life, without aggression against others.

Brothers, the strongest message that the great Libyan people is sending today from the immortal city of Tripoli to the forces of the West, the states of the West, which have become so dictatorial they believe that they can decide [word indistinct] and that the people will carry out these resolutions. But here are the people standing up to what the colonialist states are saying. Here is the Libyan people deciding today and preparing for the confrontation and declaring its resistance and defiance. [chants and slogans] The fact that the Libyan people have come out today in this incomparable crowd can be seen as a very important sign in the political events of this day. From today, the circles of colonialism, and the decision-making powers within them, must rethink their calculations, which are very mistaken and based on the assumptions that everyone would obey their command, that falsehood would become the law in the world, that the [word indistinct] of the UN Charter would continue, and that interference in the peoples' internal affairs would become the norm. They must know today that this is a strong message sent by the Libyan people, which are ready for confrontation and are ready to pay the price so that falsehood, the [word indistinct] of the United Nations, and the principle of the new barbarism—interference in the policy and internal affairs of the people—are not allowed to go unchecked. [chants and slogans]

Brothers, they should study history again. This is not the first confrontation with the great Libyan people nor the first confrontation with the immortal Arab nation or the people of Africa. Nor is it the first confrontation with the southern shore of the sea of the Arabs, the Mediterranean Sea—the lake of the Arabs. It is not the first confrontation with immortal Tripoli. [passage omitted]

After 500 years those stupid people have come back, thirsty for your blood, coveting your resources, desperate to control and enslave you. They returned once more after 500 years in the name of Italy in 1911. And 70 years later they returned in 1986 to attack your children while they were asleep, killing your women and children. They were trying to subjugate you and terrorize you so that you would obey the orders of the West.

Now, brothers, with utter insolence, persistence and disregard of the lessons of history, they are again trying to use a new, blatant method before [the eyes] of the peoples, in other words falsifying the UN Charter and robbing the UN General Assembly of its powers, [an assembly] in which all countries are member-states. They gave the authority on false grounds to use force, threats, and bribery, and they transferred it to the so-called Security Council, controlled by colonialist countries. Now the Security Council has become a council that secures the interests of the Western countries and threatens the interests of other peoples.

Yet, brothers, we tell them, and you, brothers, should know: A poor people without an army or government, hungry and wretched, called the Somali people could have a veto in the Security Council. The Somali veto has become stronger than the veto of the five states that have permanent membership and have the right of veto in the Security Council. The Security Council with its five permanent member-states decided to pursue Aidid and arrest him, considering him a war criminal and to search for him in his house, in his town, on his land, and among his tribesmen and people. See the injustice, the aggression and encroachment upon the sovereignty of peoples and the sacredness of their soil.

The Somali people decided that the Security Council resolution be abrogated. The Somali people used the right of veto against the superpowers, against the five superstates, and it said to them: to hell with your resolution. It carried arms, knives, arrows, and swords. Its children carried stones, and the Somali people abrogated the Security Council resolution and imposed the Somali veto with blood, with columns of martyrs: children, women, and the hungry. The Somali people paid the price of wresting the veto from the Security Council with blood, with the corpses of the innocent, the corpses of hungry children, the corpses of the barefoot and the naked. And the Security Council, humbled, contemptible, convinced of its defeat, the falsified so-called Security Council was obliged—humbled and surrendering—to abrogate its resolution in the face of the Somali people. [passage omitted]

Brothers, it was bribes which led the false and fake Security Council to call for the arrest of a national hero, who has been struggling in his land, like Aidid. Such schemes have foundered before the Somali people's determination to prove the eternal truth, in other words a people has the right to live in its land in complete freedom and a people has the right to resist invaders with all means. [passage omitted]

Brothers, we want to say this to them: The transfer of the Lockerbie problem to the Security Council was a fabrication and a concoction; it was a colonial pretext. It was, furthermore, outside the rules and the scope of the Security Council and within the scope of a battle, shields, and trenches and within the rights of a people to defend its rights and its sovereignty.

We are against terrorism; we have not and will not practice terrorism. We are exercising our right to a holy struggle. We are defending our land and avenging our sons and children. We have the right of revenge. We have the right to teach those barbarians lesson after lesson.

Brothers, you have been the object of their repeated barbarian and wanton campaigns from the first century AD to the 20th century. Did all those campaigns take place because of Lockerbie?

We expose them before the world. The issue is one of colonialism and confrontation between the countries that want independence and the colonialist forces. The Libyan people want to live freely in their land, and to enjoy their sovereignty and their right to exploit their resources for their own interest. But, brothers, they want to control the Libyan people so that they relinquish their resources to their [the West's] sons. Brothers, they want us to relinquish our resources to the colonialist countries, for the benefit of the colonialists' sons and not for the benefit of our sons.

Brothers, they want the Libyan people to relinquish the oil and Libya's strategic position. The issue is not Lockerbie. It is an issue of colonialism. We are willing to discuss the Lockerbie issue with or without the United Nations or bilaterally. But colonialism and its ambitions are not for discussion. Designs on Libyan oil; this is not for discussion. Designs on Libya's sovereignty; this is not for discussion. We are willing to discuss the issue of Lockerbie and other issues, but we are not willing to discuss the issue of Libya's sovereignty and the sovereignty of Libyan law and the Libyan government's protection of its citizens. Any country that relinquishes the protection of its citizens does not deserve to live, does not deserve to live at all [repeats last sentence]. We ask for the heads of criminals Reagan and Thatcher, who are wanted by Libyan justice and we will ask the Security Council to investigate the case of the Berlin club and the reasons for the raid on Libya in 1986, during which dozens of children, women, and innocent families were killed. We test the Security Council and we put the Security Council in the dock now: Either it proves that it is a Security Council for all the nations and looks into this case and investigates the massacre of 1986 and brings those who committed this crime before the Libyan courts, or the Lockerbie issue becomes a kind of falsehood and cannot be taken into consideration, and we will never hear about it. Perhaps we will close this file once and for all if the Security Council refuses to look into the massacre of 1986.

We want an investigation into the Berlin nightclub case and the 1986 massacre of our children and sons. These barbarians did not feel ashamed of killing our children, brothers. They have attacked us scores of times from across the sea. And despite this they still do not feel ashamed. They are still infringing [Libya's sovereignty]. Brothers, we are fed up with the West's encroachment, with the falsification of the United Nations and violation of its charter, with the prostration of those who lie down, and the surrendering of those who surrender around us. We are sick and tired of the shame and disgrace that they want to impose on the Arab nation.

We are now moving slowly toward a clash, toward confrontation with all means, in all fields, with all weapons, brothers. We want to prove our right to live on earth, under the sun, deservedly and proudly, enjoying a genuine independence and real sovereignty on our own land. It is our right to arm ourselves because we are facing barbarians and savages bent on committing aggression against our homes and children. Of all peoples we are the one who has most right to seek weapons that would deter the forces of injustice, aggression and colonialism.

Brothers, today we address this message from the eternal city of Tripoli, at this unparalleled gathering which comes as an addition to yesterday's gathering in Banghazi, and those of Misratah, Zlitan, al-Khums, [word indistinct], Tajura, and Qasr Bin Ghashir. This unprecedented crowd is added [to previous crowds] from where we address this message, in the name of all these millions: The people of the world are fed up with the encroachment of the Western colonialist countries and their interference with the internal affairs of the people and their unbearable demands, asking them to hand over their sons, to hand over their sons to their enemy, and asking them to arrest in their houses patriots and those who resist. The people are fed up and have now begun to be ready to sacrifice themselves, to pay with blood and give rank upon rank of martyrs in order to attain freedom. Brothers, let us deter the colonialist forces. Now we declare that we are mobilizing the forces of the Libyan people toward production and controlling their resources and capabilities. After that we declare our readiness to set the colonialists and the oil on fire, and to die while we are standing, brothers. The struggle continues.

Two Million Reported at Rally

LD2411154893 Tripoli JANA in English 1422 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Harth [November] 24 JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Two million residents of Tripoli gathered today to greet the leader of the revolution, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, in a demonstration of steadfastness, defiance and willingness to resist.

Furthermore, the people of Masratah, Zleitin, al Khoms, Tajoura and Qasr Bin Ghasheer, chanted slogans in defiance of the blockade and the conspiracies of their heinous enemies.

The crowd which gathered to greet the leader of the revolution in Tripoli declared their unshakable defiance to the blockade and their determination to remain steadfast and resist the neo crusader colonialist attack which the western countries are waging against the Great Jamahiriyah, in an attempt to target the entire Arab world.

In their slogans, the crowds demanded that Libya should withdraw from the United Nations after becoming a mere instrument in the hands of the Western countries.

They also called for cutting off oil exports and sales to the West and to ban Arab imports into the country.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets 'Revolutionary Force' in Tripoli

LD2511214493

[Editorial Report] Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic at 1952 GMT on 25 November broadcasts a 47-minute recorded report on meetings between Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and the "revolutionary force" in Tripoli on an unspecified date.

The first part of the report shows the Libyan leader entering a hall full of men chanting revolutionary slogans and shaking hands with them. The second part shows al-Qadhdhafi meeting with women in another hall. It includes shots of women reading out poetry praising al-Qadhdhafi and the revolution, and other women queueing up to kiss or shake hands with him.

A third section shows al-Qadhdhafi meeting with the masses of Tripoli inside a marquee. It starts with a man welcoming the Libyan leader and saying it is an honor for him and the masses of Tripoli to receive him among his sons and brethren. Another man reiterates the determination of the masses of Tripoli to rise to the challenge and defeat the oppressors. A third man, one of the secretaries of the basic people's congresses in Tripoli, reads out a statement talking about steadfastness, defiance, and readiness for sacrifice. This is followed by poetry praising al-Qadhdhafi and his leadership. Then a local official reads out a document of loyalty and allegiance from the masses of Tripoli reiterating the people's determination to stand by the Libyan leader and the revolution. This reading is often interrupted by revolutionary chants calling on al-Qadhdhafi not to flinch in his defiance. During all this time, al-Qadhdhafi is shown seated and occasionally raising his fist and beaming with satisfaction.

Al-Qadhdhafi is then shown receiving gifts and shaking more hands. He is also introduced to a correspondent from the London-based Arabic magazine AL-MAJALLAH who says he wishes to interview him.

At 2038 GMT al-Qadhdhafi makes a short statement as follows: "In the name of God: First of all, I greet you all and I express to you my deepest thanks and gratitude for the welcome and the spontaneous, enthusiastic, revolutionary, and sincere expression from the masses of this area in Tripoli. As I said this morning, the Arab peoples do need to hear your voices: Defiance, defiance, the train of revolutionaries is passing." The program concludes.

Al-Qadhdhafi Tells Media to End Clinton 'Mudslinging'

LD2511150993 Tripoli JANA in English 1413 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Tripoli (Al-Harth) [November] 25 Jamahiriyah News Agency—Egypt recently called for an end to the mudslinging taking place in the American and Libyan media.

An Egyptian official gave a press statement yesterday calling for restraint and refraining from taking part in the smear campaigns against the leader of the revolution and President Clinton.

This prompted the leader of the revolution [Al-Qadhdhafi] to call on the Libyan media to treat Clinton differently from his predecessors, Bush and Reagan.

In a statement to the Jamahiriya News Agency, the leader said: I urge the Libyan media to desist from depicting Clinton in the same light as Bush and Reagan. Whatever the case, the democratic camp is our friend and consequently we must give Clinton time to carry out an independent democratic policy which will not involve aggressive actions, until he has the opportunity to settle scores with the Republicans who are responsible for entangling him in such actions.

Foreign Assets Transferred to Arab Banks

NC2411131193 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 22 Nov 93 p 10

[Text] Hundreds of millions of dollars that Libya owned abroad have been cashed and brought to Libya through Egypt and Tunisia to use in the internal conflict among the disputing power agencies surrounding Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. This action has revealed that large amounts of Libyan funds were registered in the names of the leaders of several security agencies. This was disclosed after a discussion on the impact of the latest Security Council resolution freezing Libyan assets in foreign banks to step up the international sanctions against Tripoli for refusing to implement a previous Security Council resolution to hand over the two defendants in the case of the bombing of a U.S. commercial airplane over Lockerbie.

Regarding the impact of the Security Council resolution, it transpired that the Libyan authorities transferred a large amount of its assets from Swiss, French, Italian, and Spanish banks to Arab banks in Lebanon, Egypt, Bahrain, and other friendly countries, such as Cyprus and Greece. Experts estimate Libyan funds abroad at approximately $7 billion. Only a small amount of these assets remains in European banks; most of the assets have been transferred to banks in Arab and other friendly countries. Some of these funds have been transferred to U.S. banks in the name of Arab, Greek, or Cypriot banks without mentioning the names of Libyan depositors.

West Assailed for Honoring Rushdie

LD2511215693 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] U.S. President Clinton and Secretary of State Christopher received Salman Rushdie, the renegade Indian writer who has shown insolence to Islam and to the Muslim faith by writing a book in which he ridiculed the Holy Koran, filling it with insults to and defamation of the Prophet Muhammad, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, and laughing at his message.

British Prime Minister Major had previously received Salman Rushdie. This writer, who hates Islam, was granted an honorary professorship at the American Cambridge University [as heard].

Those who show insolence to Islam, ridicule the Muslims' faith and insult their prophet have thus become worthy of being received and honored at the highest levels of the Western governments by foreign ministers and heads of states, including prime ministers. They are honored by the most famous Western universities and are given the highest titles.

Although we did not expect the West to behave differently, we are however wondering about those who claim that they are the defenders of Islam. What justification have they got not to boycott the governments of those who receive at their highest levels people who ridiculed the Holy Koran and made the Muslims and their sanctities an object of derision?

Furthermore, the U.S. State Department has issued a statement to U.S. embassies abroad asking U.S. nationals to be cautious and not to gather in groups. News reports have pointed out that the U.S. State Department statement was issued following U.S. President Clinton's meeting with the renegade Indian writer Salman Rushdie.

Sudan

Foreign Minister Condemns U.S. Congress Decision

EA2411193493 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1315 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih has condemned a recent decision by the U.S. Congress denouncing Sudan. His Excellency rejected the principle of denunciation, regarding it as a continuation of a policy of hostility adopted by the U.S. Government against Sudan.

Abu-Salih discussed U.S. interference in the affairs of other states. In his statement before the Transitional National Assembly, His Excellency wondered about the meaning of the decision. He asked whether the door to dialogue between the two countries had been closed.

He described American-Sudanese relations as having deteriorated following the Gulf War, when the United States used the Gulf War as an excuse to exert various pressures on Sudan, adopting steps that constituted interference in its internal affairs and a violation of the unity of the homeland.

Abu-Salih exposed the false accusations concerning human rights violations and the alleged obstacles concerning relief deliveries.

The United States used pretexts to support the rebels, and provided a forum for them to address the world and abort peace initiatives. He described the Washington symposium as true proof of U.S. support for the rebels in the south. Abu-Salih reviewed Sudanese foreign policy efforts in the African-Arab and world domains.

Rejects Call For Civilian Rule

EA2611100793 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih has explained that the American Congress' recent resolutions against Sudan are tantamount to a demonstration to incite international public opinion against Sudan. It is part of the American Congress' effort to secure a resolution imposing a ban on Sudan.

Dr. Abu-Salih asked in the information forum of the Foreign Ministry today what the meaning of the American Congress' demand for the military authority in Sudan to hand over the government to civilians was when the Congress knew full well that there is no military government in Sudan since the Revolution Command Council dissolved itself voluntarily some time ago and handed over the government to the president of a republic who received the allegiance of the masses of the Sudanese people.

The foreign minister explained that this consultative practice is not understood by the American Congress nor those who are in charge of its affairs, pointing out that the resolutions of the American Congress are not binding on the Government of Sudan because it does not represent the American Administration. At the same time, resolutions made by the Sudanese Government are not binding on the American Administration.

Dr. Abu-Salih affirmed the failure of the American Congress to furnish so far a single proof of Sudan's violation of human rights, explaining that Sudan's record is honorable in this field.

Foreign Minister Reviews Relations With West

EA2411174093 Khartoum SUNA in English 1015 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Khartoum 24 Nov (SUNA)—Minister of Foreign Affairs Husayn Abu-Salih stressed that the Sudan will spare no efforts to restore its relations with the western nations through opening channels for dialogue and communication.

He said that a number of political, social, religious and parliamentary leaders from Europe were invited to Sudan with whom dialogues was conducted with the aim of removing misunderstanding of Sudan orientation [sentence as received].

In a statement he delivered to the Transitional National Assembly, TNA, Tuesday [23 November], Abu-Salih said that the visits enabled those leaders to acquaint themselves with the situation in the Sudan and reject the false allegations being circulated against the country.

He pointed out that following the end of the Cold War, new attitudes emerged in Eastern Europe and brought with them new entities for influence, a matter which broadened the circle of violence, citing the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina as a clear-cut evidence of that attitude.

Meanwhile, Abu-Salih reiterated Sudan's sympathy and firm stand alongside the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, adding that the Sudan was acting through the Organization of Islamic Conference [ICO] for supporting the Bosnians.

Speaking on Sudan's relations with countries of western Europe, Abu-Salih pointed out that these relations were characterized by stagnation because the countries were hostile to the Islamic orientation in the Sudan.

He stated that the attitude of the West against the Sudan was boosted by false allegations circulated by western media on human rights abuses, deterioration of the situation in the south and the difficulty of conducting relief operations in the Sudan.

Due to these factors, the countries of western Europe have suspended their development of these countries to the country was confined to humanitarian aid extended through foreign voluntary organizations, Abu-Salih said [sentenced as received].

He disclosed involvement of some foreign voluntary organisations in supporting the outlaws politically and materially, a matter which has hampered progress of peace efforts.

Abu-Salih said that some western circles [not] only froze their relations with the Sudan but also support the outlaws movement, adding that the sheer intervention of the West in domestic affairs of other countries was responsible for reinstigating wars and seditions, creating a climate of instability in many African countries.

He affirmed that Sudan's relations with Canada and Latin American countries are progressing satisfactory.

Sudan relations with the Horn of Africa state were characterized by strength, clearness and remoteness from any fluctuations or contradictions because they were formed from the beginning on a clear basis, said Abu-Salih, minister of foreign affairs.

He added yesterday in a statement before the Transitional National Assembly, TNA, that Sudan's relations with each of Ethiopia and Eritrea were distinguished and Sudan had played a major role in the Preferential Trade Area conference, PTA, held recently in Kampala, Uganda.

He pointed out that Sudan's stance towards the Somali problem was clear and emanated from Sudan's keenness to maintain the Somali people's unity and to put an end to their sufferings within the African context through the participation of all the Somali factions.

Abu-Salih explained that efforts were being continued to intensify chances of negotiation and cooperation with Chad, central Africa and Zaire, explaining that Sudan would endeavour to create the proper climate for realizing security and stability all over the area and would also endeavour to open contact channels with West Africa.

He added that Sudan viewed [with] great concern the development of the situations in South Africa.

Concerning Sudan's relations with the Asian states, Abu-Salih explained that Sudan was convinced by the continuous development in relations with each of China, Malaysia, Indonesia, [and] Korea, and would boost and reactivate the cooperation mechanism with these countries through the convening of a joint ministerial committees in the first half of 1994.

"Sudan statement before the U.N. General Assembly in its 48th session called on all the member states to abandon selectivity and to follow a democratic system in making decisions", said Abu-Salih.

He added that Sudan has also explained its stance towards the human right issue and refused the use of human rights as a means to interfere in the internal affairs of the member states.

He also reiterated Sudan's rejection to the accusations against it as a terrorist country, saying that Sudan has cooperated with the world community to get it acquainted with the reality of human rights situations in Sudan.

He explained that the mass media campaign launched currently against Sudan aimed at Sudan's civilized orientation.

Collapse of Washington Accord, Clashes Reported

EA2511204093 Omdurman National Unity Radio in English 1500 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] The so-called Washington agreement between the [word indistinct] rebel factions has collapsed. New (?bloody) clashes have erupted between the Nasir and Garang groups in Kongor, (?Ayod) and Waat leading to the death of many rebels. The two factions have issued a statement in Nairobi, Kenya, (?in the last few days, each) blaming the other for breaking the terms of the Washington agreement.

In its statement, the Garang group says one of the officers from the Nasir group, [name indistinct], was killed in the clashes. On the other hand, Mr. Lam Akol, the spokesman of the United Group, has issued a statement saying the so-called Washington agreement is not sacred and that Garang's forces attacked the army of the United Group, who later had to defend themselves.

It is worth mentioning that this is the first incident among the rebel factions since the signing of the so-called Washington agreement which was patronized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs [as heard] in the United States.

Commentary Scores U.S. Role in South

EA2611104293 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Nov 93

["Political commentary" by Najm al-Din Muhammad Ahmad; read by unidentified announcer]

[Text] [Unidentified announcer] It is time the rebel movement was aware that if it is serious about the prevalence of peace and stability in the regions of the south and efforts devoted to construction and development, then the outcome of any ready-made solution dictated to it from outside the borders of the homeland, or by circles that do not wish the homeland good, will always fail.

The proof of what we are saying is the collapse of the agreement that was produced by the Washington symposium with the aim of unifying the two wings of the southern rebel movement. Colleague Najm al-Din Muhammad Ahmad looked at the clauses of the agreement and wrote the following political commentary in which he explains the American Administration's efforts to impede the march of peace in Sudan and other areas of the world:

[Second unidentifed announcer] The ink in which the Washington agreement was written, an agreement which resulted from a supposed symposium which alleged the unification of the two wings of the rebel movement—the group of the renegade John Garang and the united faction led by Riak Machar—had hardly dried when reports came in of the collapse of the agreement in the wake of the renewal of violent clashes between the Nasir group and the Garang group.

This outbreak of fighting between the two sides of the rebel movement comes in the wake of an exchange of accusations between the two sides. Each side accuses the other of violating the letter and spirit of the agreement by starting the fighting. Whatever the form of the accusations and whichever side started the aggression, the incontrovertible truth remains that the American Administration has been poking its nose into people's internal affairs, whatever the umbrella it uses to try and conceal itself. Hence, failure will always be its ally.

This is due to the fact that the American Administration and other circles hostile to people and their orientation do not want a war to end and it is not among their concerns that stability, peace, and unity be spread to the regions of any of the world states. America, which wants to install itself as a master of the world, is striving to achieve this aim by imposing a policy whose purpose is to divide and rule.

For this reason, the Washington agreement carried the seed of its inevitable failure within itself since the drafter of the agreement, namely representative Harry Johnston, chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa in the American House of Representatives on the instructions of the administration of his government, wanted Sudan to be divided when he included the right of self-determination of southern Sudan, the Nubah mountains, and the neighboring areas in his fragile agreement. The American representative did not forget to include the continuation of the war between northern and southern Sudan even after the achievement of his illusion of division by persuading the two sides of the rebellion to continue bearing their arms against the Khartoum government as long as this government rejected this alleged right of self-determination.

Thus, the American Administration always fails in its view of matters. The collapse of the Washington agreement therefore lengthens the catalogue of failures by this administration which falsely claims to lead the world in the name of a world order which it describes as new. The failure of this administration to put an end to the tragedy of Somalia is not far from our minds. Indeed, America is responsible before history for the complications of the Somali crisis, especially after the unsuccessful decision to land UN forces, led by the leader of the world, America, on Somali territory after the signs of a peaceful solution loomed and the convening of the Somali conference approached.

For this reason, America, which alleges its sponsorship of peace, its safeguarding of security and stability in the world and its preservation of human rights in this world, while remaining farthest from all that, is in fact intent on impeding any effort to establish peace in every place and at every time, for it is the one that organized the Washington meeting which produced the collapsed agreement between the two sides of the rebel movement at a time when sincere efforts to establish peace in Sudan were and remain underway, whether by the government or by sincere brothers and friends.

For example, the symposium coincided [word indistinct] with an initiative put forward by former American President Jimmy Carter, who was going to involve the two factions of the rebellion in discussions to be held at his headquarters in Atlanta for the purpose of starting to explore opportunities of establishing peace in Sudan. The intention of the man was that if these discussions achieved progress, he would go ahead and involve the government at a later stage. This effort was completely aborted after the organization of the Washington symposium, just as Washington did with the second Abuja negotiations (?after) peace between the government and the rebel movement was very close and the agreement was prepared for signing when America and those of its kind persuaded their tool, Garang, not to sign.

This is America which falsely alleges its eagerness to spread peace and security in the regions of the world. It always places obstacles before the peace movement.

However, failure is always its ally. But peace is coming in defiance of the tyrants and despots. And God is the grantor of success.

'Arafat Thanks Sudan for Hosting Palestinian Forces

EA2511204593 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Lieutanant General 'Umar al-Bashir, president of the Republic and commander in chief of the People's Armed Forces, has received a written message from Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat expressing the appreciation of the Palestinian leadership to the Government and people of Sudan for their generous hosting of the Palestinian forces in Sudan since 1982. The message was handed to Lt. Gen. al-Bashir by the military attache of the Embassy of the State of Palestine in Khartoum during his meeting with al-Bashir in his office at the General Command of the People's Armed Forces today.

Tunisia

Italian President Scalfaro Received by Ben Ali

LD2411182293 Rome RAI Uno Television Network in Italian 1230 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro's two-day state visit to Tunisia began this morning. The president was received at the airport by Tunisian President [Zin El Abidine] Ben Ali, with a welcome reserved only for the heads of countries which are considered very friendly.

The relationship between Tunisia and Italy is excellent and is cemented by historic links and great civilizations. Today the flux of immigrants between the two countries make these links still stronger.

This is Scalfaro's first visit outside Europe. After meetings today with the Tunisian authorities, Scalfaro will tomorrow meet with Palestinian Liberation Organization Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. It was 'Arafat himself who requested the meeting with our head of state.

Presidents Discuss Peace Process

LD2411232993 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Excerpts] The relations between Tunisia and Italy, the prospects for strengthening bilateral relations and the issue of regional cooperation in addition to the current international issues were among the main topics of the talks held by President Ben Ali with the Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro at the Carthage Palace this morning. [passage omitted]

Moreover, the official spokesman disclosed that the two presidents, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, also reviewed the issues in the regional and international arenas and in particular the developments in the Middle East peace process, following the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, and the crisis between Libya and some Western states and the dangerous consequences which it could have on the region.

The two presidents also reviewed the Bosnia-Herzegovina issue as they stressed the need to reach a radical solution to this problem in a way that will save the Bosnian people from the tragedies they are living and restore security and stability in this region.

They also dealt with the Somali issue and the need to coordinate efforts at all levels to protect the Somali people from the specter of famine and discord surrounding them so as they recover their natural unity and conditions. [passage omitted]

Final Talks Held

LD2511145893 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Excerpt] President Ben Ali held another round of talks with Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro at Carthage Palace today. The talks were the final item on the agenda of the Italian president's two-day visit to our country.

The official presidential spokesman stated that during this meeting the two presidents reviewed the general outlines of the relations between Tunisia and Italy, and expressed satisfaction at the results achieved by the two countries' delegations to further bolster bilateral cooperation, particularly the prospects for the joint Tunisian-Italian Committee and the soon-to-be-established specialized committees. This will give new impetus to economic cooperation, particularly in the financial and industrial sector; will help develop joint projects; and continue to develop bilateral consultations. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Amir: Government Has 'No Enmity' Toward Iraqis

PM2411145793 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 23 Nov 93 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Shaykh Jabir: No Enmity Between Iraqis and Kuwaitis Except What Saddam Did"]

[Excerpt] London, AL-HAYAH—Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah stressed during his reception of the Iraqi opposition delegation yesterday that the Kuwaiti people and Government have no enmity toward the Iraqi people. The delegation quoted him as saying that "there is no enmity between the two peoples except what (President) Saddam (Husayn) did."

He added during his reception of the [Unified] Iraqi National Congress that "the two peoples are victims of the same dictatorship from which the Iraqis are still suffering." He announced that Kuwait would consider providing relief aid to the Iraqi people.

Ahmad al-Jalabi, chairman of the Executive Council of the congress, emphasized to the Kuwaiti amir that "Kuwait will not enjoy stability or peace as long as Saddam is in power in Iraq."

He told AL-HAYAH over the telephone that the delegation's visit to Kuwait "is very positive; we have encountered amity and sympathy, and Saddam will not succeed in sabotaging the ties of friendship between the two peoples."

The meeting, during which al-Jalabi reviewed conditions in Iraq, was attended by Shaykh Muhammad Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, minister of the amiri court; Muhammad 'Ali al-Rifa'i, adviser to the amir; Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, undersecretary at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry; and Ambassador Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Jasim, head of the information and research department at the ministry.

Al-Jalabi pointed out that the delegation "denounced the Iraqi regime's repeated attacks on Kuwait. And we informed his highness the amir of the congress' resolution stipulating respect for the Security Council resolutions."

Asked about statements made by a congress official which were interpreted as a demand for money in return for recognizing Kuwait's sovereignty, he said that these statements "do not reflect the congress' resolutions; they represent the opinion of no one except the person who made them." He stressed that "the safety of Iraq's territory and Kuwait's territory and the sovereignty of the two states and their independence are not subject to oneupmanship in any form." Concluding his statement, he said that the delegation's requests "are limited to helping the Iraqi people and bolstering the opposition's efforts—requests which we address to all brothers and friends."

As is well known, Iraqi opposition groups, among them the Free Iraq Council and the Islamic Movement in Iraqi Kurdistan, have announced in statements that the delegation does not represent all the opposition, urging Kuwait to treat the delegation on that basis.

The delegation will today continue to discuss with officials the requests submitted to Kuwait, which include helping the opposition politically and informationally and providing contributions in the areas of relief and economic aid.

United Arab Emirates

UAE Seeks Austerity Despite Higher Oil Output

NC2511141993 Paris AFP in English 1218 GMT 25 Nov 93

[By Nadim Kawash]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Nov 25 (AFP)—The United Arab Emirates (UAE) said on Thursday [25 November] it was pursuing austerity measures to balance its budget despite a sharp increase in its oil production over the past three years.

The Central Bank also said the government would focus more on development projects and maintain taxes on services as part of its attempts to boost non-oil revenues and diversify the economy.

"The UAE's policy is characterised by a continuation of the trend to rationalise expenditure, especially in cutting administrative spending in favour of development projects," it said in its annual report.

"The government will also pursue efforts to boost non-oil revenues through revision of fees on some public services and introduction of fees on other services in order to achieve a balance in the budget."

The UAE launched an austerity drive in mid 1980s, when oil prices began to climb down after peaking at 40 dollars in early 1980s. Spending was slashed to nearly four billion dollars a year from more than seven billion dollars.

But unlike most other Gulf oil producers, the UAE is now earning more money from oil exports as it boosted its crude production to nearly 2.2 million barrels per day (bpd) currently from around 1.5 million bpd eight years ago and nearly one million bpd in early 1980s.

The increase was in line with an OPEC agreement allowing some members to raise output to make up for a loss of around four million bpd from the market because of the disruption in Iraqi and Kuwaiti supplies during the Gulf war.

From six billion dollars in 1985 and 5.8 billion dollars in 1989, the UAE's revenues jumped to around nine billion dollars in 1990, to 13 billion dollars in 1991 and 14 billion dollars in 1992. Experts expect them to be between 12-14 billion dollars in 1993.

The UAE has ruled out imposing income taxes or issuing bonds to shore up the budget deficit, opting instead for fees on government services and withdrawing from its federal investments.

Introduction or more taxes on services and raising existing fees pushed up such revenues to 5.12 billion dirhams (1.39 billion dollars) in 1992 from 1.62 billion dirhams (441 million dollars).

Actual spending was cut to 4.2 billion dollars in 1992 from a projected 4.7 billion dollars and to 4.1 billion dollars in 1991 from a projected 4.6 billion dollars, according to official figures.

This sharply reduced the actual deficit in 1991 to 170 million dollars and turned a projected shortfall in 1992 into a surplus of 567 million dollars for the first time in nearly a decade. Financial sources said they expected the projected 1993 deficit of 470 million dollars to be lower.

In theory, the UAE's federal budget is financed by half the income of each of its seven emirates but in practice, most of the funds come from Abu Dhabi and Dubayy, the main oil producers in the Gulf country.

A breakdown in the Central Bank report showed current expenditure declined slightly to 14.8 billion dirhams (4.03 billion dollars) in 1992 from 14.9 billion dirhams (4.05 billion dollars) in 1991.

Development spending rose to 699 million dirhams (190 million dollars) from 313 million dirhams (85 million dollars). It also showed foreign aid allocated in the federal budget stood at only 2.2 million dollars.

Yemen

Police Report Kidnap of USIS Chief in Sanaa

AB2611154593 Paris AFP in English 1509 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Sanaa, Nov 26 (AFP)—The head of the U.S. Information Service in Sanaa, Haynes Mahoney, was kidnapped Thursday [25 November] night in the Yemeni capital, police said Friday.

Mahoney's kidnappers, whose identities were unknown, drove him to Ma'arib, 200 kilometers (120 miles) east of Sanaa, police said.

They said they did not know the motive for the abduction, the first of a Western diplomat in the country since North and South Yemen were united in May 1990.

Information Minister Comments on Government Rift

NC2511093393 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Telephone interview with Yemeni Information Minister Hasan al-Lawzi in Sanaa by Fawzi al-Jundi in Cairo, carried on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Mr. al-Lawzi, good morning and welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Lawzi] Good morning. Thank you very much for contacting me, Brother Fawzi, and thanks to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Jundi] Let us begin with the latest developments in Yemen and the extent of the current crisis between President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

[Al-Lawzi] The issue, in fact, relates to different views and ideas within the existing national dialogue in the country, not to differences, as suggested by the question. The dialogue is continuing. The coalition government and the parliamentary coordination committee are continuing their meetings to reach accurate and clear solutions to all issues on the table, whether they are the issues brought forward by the parties to the coalition or those mentioned in the election programs of the parties that contested the important democratic elections on 27 April. Those elections entrenched the constitutional legitimacy and proved that our people are qualified to march along this road, which was consolidated by the achievement of unity and democracy. The dialogue is continuing, and several state institutions are performing their role, particularly the positive efforts of the House of Representatives—the legislative authority in the country. The Council of Ministers is also playing a role, and committees formed by the executive and legislative bodies are discussing all pending issues. Committees drawn from the coalition leaders, along with leaders of opposition organizations and prominent national and social figures, are also involved in the discussions. What has been described as a crisis in the country is a feature of the new democratic life in Yemen. The ongoing dialogue will succeed in the realization of the national objectives, which all Yemenis are looking forward to.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. Hasan al-Lawzi, despite the differences between President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, leader of the General People's Congress, and Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, the two sides are stressing that Yemeni unity is an inevitable need and that this unity is not at risk. Can we say objectively that Yemeni unity is not threatened by the differences?

[Al-Lawzi] The people paid dearly for unity. They struggled for 30 years to achieve it. The people, therefore, cannot return to the abyss and to fragmentation. Unity is a great and sacred victory that all Yemenis, without exception, will safeguard. Everyone believes in this. The multiparty democracy produced by the unification is also a firm and undebatable option. Adhering to this democracy is a principle in the hearts and minds of all Yemenis, foremost among them the leadership and the various political organizations. Unity is a solid, nonnegotiable principle, and so is democracy. But the process of building the nation, achieving fair and expeditious development to help solve the economic and social problems and eliminate security gaps and terrorism, and upgrading political dialogue and discussions made the people and all of our country's leaders think—although it has taken them some time—of ways to preserve unity, promote democratic practices, and continue building the new Yemen, the Yemen of 22 May.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. Minister, with the recent developments in Yemen and the divergent viewpoints, can we say that Yemen's foreign policy, especially the inclination toward completing Arab reconciliation after the Gulf crisis, will be negatively affected?

[Al-Lawzi] It will not be affected, of course. Yemeni policy is based on constants and principles that the political leadership in our country has emphasized. These principles are also emphasized by the coalition government, which was formed as a fruit of the major victory of constitutional legitimacy and the establishment of an elected legislative authority. In its statement, the government, which enjoys the full confidence of the parliament, clearly discussed Yemen's foreign relations. It stressed the constants of Yemen's policy toward Arab reconciliation and called for strengthening Yemen's relations will all Arab countries and presenting Yemen as a positive model for solving the existing problems in some Arab countries.

[al-Jundi] Thank you very much, Mr. al-Lawzi.

[Al-Lawzi] Thank you, and we want to tell our brothers throughout the Arab world to be reassured.

Cabinet Hears Report on Settling Government Crisis

JN2511102393 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers held an ordinary session this morning under First Deputy Prime Minister brother Dr. Hasan Mahmud Makki. At the outset of the meeting, the Council listened to a report by Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Unsi on the activities of the committee that was formed by the Council of Ministers to follow up the current political crisis, curtail its repercussions, and eliminate its manifestations, particularly in the security and information field. The report also touched on the results of the committee's meetings with the House of Representatives expanded committee from which a subcommittee was formed comprising the House speaker, members of the House speakership, the prime minister, and his deputies.

The report noted the positive results attained toward paving the way for settlement of the crisis, particularly what was attained on the security and information level. The report called for a serious media contribution through the media's interaction with the efforts to end media vituperations and establish an atmopshere of confidence in a manner that will help find ways to settle the crisis.

The Council approved the submission of a comprehensive report on the committee's work to a special cabinet session that will convene for this purpose. The Council then listened to a report by the brother interior minister on the implementation of the tasks the Interior Ministry was charged to carry out by the Council of Ministers in its previous session concerning the removal of the newly established military checkpoints and the reorganization and control of security checkpoints by the Interior Ministry, and referring those accused of assassinations to the courts and prosecuting those who have fled from justice.

The Council also paused before the brother interior minister's report on the issue of martyr Major Ahmad Muhammad al-Shami, commissioner of the al-Hazim district in the al-Jawf Governorate on 23 November. The Council offered condolences to the martyr's family and urged the Interior Ministry to arrest the culprits and bring them to trial. [passage omitted]

The Council of Ministers then approved the renting of a satellite channel from the second generation of Arabsat, system C (balo) so that our country may exercise its right to television transmission and carry out its information message with the help of space technology similar to other countries and companies, and expand the national transmission scope in Yemen. [passage omitted]

Dialogue With Opposition Approaching 'Breakthrough'

PM2611114593 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Nov 93 pp 1, 4

[Faysal Makram report: "Yemeni Interior Minister Expects Breakthrough, Attributes al-Shami's Assassination To Revenge"]

[Excerpts] Sanaa—Yemeni Interior Minister Brigadier General Yahya al-Mutawakkil has said that the Yemeni crisis is approaching a breakthrough. In a statement to AL-HAYAH yesterday he announced that the assassination in Sanaa the day before yesterday, Monday, of Major Ahmad Muhammad al-Shami, director of security in the Hazm al-Jawf area, al-Jawf Governorate, "has nothing to do with political parties." He added that "early indications from the investigation are that the incident is linked to revenge grudges between the perpetrators and al-Shami as a result of his duties as a security man who stormed the dens of robbers, criminals, and bandits several times—operations which resulted in the killing of a number of individuals pursued by the security services." [passage omitted]

Asked whether al-Jawf tribal chiefs' pledge will help to arrest the members of the "Jihad Organization" who escaped from al-Mansurah prison in Aden some four months ago and who are accused of carrying out bombings and assassinations in southern governorates, the Yemeni interior minister said: "They are still in al-Jawf, and arresting them does not require a major security campaign. But the political crisis has obstructed the implementation of the entire security plan. Those who escaped from al-Mansurah prison in Aden have not left al-Jawf; they are in a remote area. They are taking precautions to protect themselves. And we in the Interior Ministry are currently working to thwart any attempt to disrupt security or aggravate the situation behind the current crisis."

He added: "When the political crisis in Yemen eases, and I see it approaching a breakthrough, the Interior Ministry will be able to implement its security plan very carefully and successfully, because we rely on our security services, not the tribal chiefs' pledges, and we are interested in everyone's cooperation."

It seems that signs of a breakthrough have emerged in the country with the launch on the morning of the day before yesterday of the first round of dialogue over the current crisis in Yemen among leaders of the ruling coalition parties with the participation of political figures representing the opposition and independents.

The Yemeni opposition has succeeded in persuading the parties to turn to dialogue, and the first round began the day before yesterday in an atmosphere of secrecy. However, 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jafri, leader of the "League of the Sons of Yemen" party, objected to this secrecy, saying: "It is embarrassing that the various media services should transmit all news about the authority represented in the coalition parties and yet shroud the first round of dialogue in secrecy when it is a great and historic action."

Al-Jafri, a key leader of the national opposition bloc, disclosed in a statement to AL-HAYAH that the "three ruling coalition parties together with social and political figures representing the opposition have agreed on a dialogue mechanism to surmount the crisis and find ways out of it in order to spare the Yemeni homeland the catastrophe of an explosion and the calamities of splittism." He added: "This mechanism has been agreed among the ruling parties—the General People's Congress, the Yemeni Socialist Party, and the Yemeni Reform Grouping—and the national opposition bloc." [passage omitted]

Salih, al-Bid Reportedly To Meet in Jordan

JN2611082393 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Nov 93 pp 22, 21

["Frankly" column by Sultan al-Hattab: "Cairo is the Entrance"]

[Excerpt] From Damascus to Cairo, and Abu Dhabi soon. [sentence as published] In a few days, Sanaa and Aden will be Amman's next destination. Jordanian mediation to resolve the problems between the two Yemeni leaders, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, will result in their meeting in Amman, King Husayn's capital.

This is the highlight of the Jordanian effort, which will enhance Arab vision and Arab efforts to resolve differences and respond to the Arab reconciliation that was undermined by the Gulf war. [passage omitted]

'Twisted' UN Report on CW Nonuse Viewed

JN2411122593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Nov (INA)—Two Iraqi papers have stressed that exposure of the false claims that Iraq used chemical weapons in the marshlands indicates, among other things, the size and dimensions of the crime that is being perpetrated against the Iraqi people.

In their editorials today, the newspapers AL-'IRAQ and BABIL expressed astonishment at the level to which the Tehran rulers sank, and the role they accepted to play in spreading rumors and fabricating claims, contrary to the principles of Islam and faith behind which they are hiding.

The two papers stressed that the results of the UN technical team's visit to the site where Iraq allegedly used chemical weapons against its own people necessitate that the United Nations should seek the truth and should not be dragged behind lies whose objectives, dimensions, and timing are well known.

AL-'IRAQ wonders about the Iranian rulers' interpretation of the committee's announcement that it found no evidence supporting their accusations against Iraq. The paper says that the objective of those who masterminded the unjust campaign against Iraq and made out of it an issue for the hirelings and agents was to tarnish Iraq's reputation and position.

The paper adds: Through their new lie, these parties sought to affect Iraq's cooperation with the UN Special Commission and the UN Security Council's resolutions, particularly Resolution 687.

The paper notes the timing of this lie about Iraq's use of chemical weapons in the southern marshlands. It says that it was premeditatedly aimed at escalating the situation against Iraq before the regular voting at the UN Security Council, and that it coincided with the departure of the political and technical delegation for New York to explain Iraq's case to the UN Security Council members and the UN secretary general.

The newspaper BABIL expresses regret that the technical committee divided its findings into two parts; the first is a technical part unequivocally proving that it found no evidence against Iraq and the other is a flexible political part allowing hostile quarters to set their plans against Iraq in harmony with their interests and objectives.

The committee had earlier announced that it found no evidence that Iraq used chemical weapons against its own people in the southern marshlands. However, it also said that a definitive report would not be out for one or two months; namely, after testing the samples collected from the site.

The paper says that this is the only expected outcome of this issue. It says that announcing the results in this way once again paves the way for blackmailing and threatening Iraq.

Continuing to expose the objectives behind drafting the committee's report in this twisted way, BABIL says: Announcing that the accusations against Iraq were false would put an end to the issue. However, the best way is to keep the file open for future utilization, which will be decided by the forces hostile to Iraq at the appropriate time and in the appropriate manner.

The paper stresses that objective dealing with the United Nations and committees is shaken when it is exposed to wicked blackmailing. It says that it is not in the interest of the United Nations to accept a supporting role in a third-rate play.

Saddam Said To Arm Barracks in South With Chemicals

NC2411161793 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Sources near the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border have reported that Saddam's regime has secretly distributed chemical artillery to his barracks along the south Iraqi border to be used against residents of these areas. The sources cited an Iraqi officer who did not reveal his identity, saying that secret and firm instructions were issued to all military sectors to use chemical weapons against civilians living in the marshlands. The officer added that the military units receiving the chemical artillery constitute the artillery battalion deployed near the headquarters of the Third Corps and the artillery battalion deployed near the headquarters of the Southern Transport Company in al-Rumaylah al-Shamaliyah.

Establishment of Safe Haven in South Urged

NC2411220093 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] The proposal submitted by Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq to set up an international center for human rights in the south of Iraq is in complete harmony with UN Resolution 688 on protecting the areas' inhabitants. His eminence called for setting up a center like that established in north Iraq, where an international presence has paralyzed the regime's ability to launch aggressive attacks against the inhabitants of Iraqi Kurdistan. The regime's troops, security men, and government officials had to leave the region because they lost the ability to exercise the oppressive and terrorist policy that is at the root of the tyrant regime's control of Iraq.

This proposal puts the United Nations and the UN Security Council face to face with their legal responsibilities, especially as UN Resolution 688 is very clear on confronting the regime's violation of human rights and showing no tolerance toward its oppression and [word indistinct]. Al-Hakim's proposal coincides with international action on the regime's use of chemical weapons against the inhabitants of the southern marshlands. A UN fact-finding team investigating the regime's use of chemical weapons visited the refugees who fled from the marshlands to south Iran. It paid a similar visit to Baghdad and then to the marshlands. The reports confirm that the regime indeed committed the abominable crime.

Just discussing the regime's use of these weapons helps to prompt the United Nations to take the necessary precautions to prevent such aggressive acts. The regime's use of chemical weapons is an essential part of the mentality governing its handling of the Iraqi people. The areas of Halabjah, (Badinam), and even the southern marshlands at different times provide evidence that the Saddamist regime commits such crimes and aggressive acts.

It may be said that the proposal submitted by His Eminence Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim is worth consideration and deserves to be adopted by the international community because it implements part of the international resolution, which dealt with conditions in Iraq selectively and lacked seriousness in applying the principles of equality, which should apply to southern Iraq in the same way they apply to the north.

The international community is ordered to maintain a legal balance among its resolutions and rules; otherwise, organizations will lose their credibility among the sons of the Iraqi people and become a factor further complicating regional conditions instead of the basic factor that pacifies conditions and restores security and stability to the region, one that is always described as a flashpoint, not only on the regional level but internationally as well.

National Assembly Denounces Campaign of 'Slanders'

JN2411124393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1144 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Nov (INA)—The Iraqi National Assembly has denounced the hostile imperialist-Zionist campaign against Iraq.

In an appeal to Arab and international parliaments, National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih said that the tendentious campaign being launched by some Western media, without verification, is based on slanders and claims that need evidence. He pointed out that Iraq is very concerned to protect its people in accordance with its bylaws and international commitments, and to secure its citizens' civilian, political, and economic rights.

He noted that this fabricated campaign is only one of the methods used against Iraq, and which has been exposed by Iraq and the fair people in the world. He held the parties behind this campaign responsible for continuing the unjust blockade against Iraq.

National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih called on the fraternal and friendly parliaments to denounce this suspect campaign and to raise their voices high to lift the blockade in order to enable Iraq to resume its international role.

UN Monitoring Prior To Ending Embargo Rejected

JN2511115393 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25-26 Nov 93 p 10

[Text] Baghdad (Agencies)—Iraq will not accept long-term U.N. monitoring of its military industry without Security Council guarantees that trade sanctions will be lifted first, a top Iraqi official said Wednesday [24 November]

Parliamentary Speaker Sa'kdi Mahdi Salih told Reuters that Iraq wanted to see Resolution 687, which allows free oil exports, fully implemented before consenting to long-term U.N. controls.

"We are in a state of negotiations. The way we give a concession, the other side is supposed to grant us something in return," Mr. Salih said.

Mr. Salih, also a member of the ruling Ba'th Party's regional command, said that when the Security Council permits Iraqi oil exports in line with provision of Resolution 687 "there will be mutual trust between Iraq and the Security Council and then (we) will look into other issues."

"I believe, we have the right, and the world community gives us that right, not to abide by anything (else)," he added.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz is in New York to lobby for an end to the three-year oil embargo.

So far he has run into a stone wall with delegates bringing up recent Iraqi incursions along the Kuwaiti borders as well as a newly-released U.N. human rights report accusing Baghdad of oppressing Shiite Muslims in its southern marshlands.

"They (the Security Council) do not want to carry out this resolution (687). Why then ask us to implement 715?" Mr. Salih said.

U.N. Resolution 715 sets out terms and conditions for a strict control and monitoring of Baghdad's future weapons potential in line with sanctions clamped on Iraq as a result of its invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

U.N. officials in charge of destroying Iraq's weapons want Mr. 'Aziz to acknowledge Resolution 715 in writing without conditions and see it applied for six months before recommending a lifting of the oil embargo clamped on Iraq because of the invasion.

Mr. Salih, saying the resolution should not be linked to the oil embargo, said Iraq had given up its military industry and major weapons and had nothing more to offer.

In a major setback for Iraq's efforts to ease the sanctions against it, a U.N. report Tuesday criticised widespread human rights abuses under an Iraqi "regime of terror."

Saddam Chairs 'Special' Cabinet Session

JN2511190093 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn has said that it is inconceivable that the nations that waged real war on us and failed to realize their evil objectives will not wage war on the Iraqi dinar and economy. His excellency stated that the state's dynamism and strength, together with the steadfastness of our great people, have broken their arrows. The physical and psychological fabric of the people that was formed during the fighting and the four years of the blockade is bound to yield dividends, the president added.

His excellency's remarks were made at a special cabinet session he chaired. The cabinet debated and endorsed the principles and bases of the combined 1994 budget.

The leader president emphasized that the road to take at this stage is for us to develop our economy by expanding our industrial and agricultural sectors and their related services according to well thought out priorities and his excellency's directives to the Council of Ministers on 5 September and 1 November, 1993.

The leader president said that the dynamism and the economic activity of the state are bound to grow further if the ministers and other officials make a point of keeping the general public informed of the country's economic state of affairs. He also called for economic issues to be aired and debated at various levels in the media in simple and clear terms. If government officials discover they have made flawed decisions, these should be revised without delay. We should all remember, the president added, that every decision we make will affect every sector of the society. It is important that we reach our decisions after thorough studies, since the bread and butter and security of the people count as fundamental rights.

His excellency stressed that if ministers and other officials are after the truth, they should not limit themselves to talking to experts. If they exclude the ordinary man in the street, they would have thus arrived at half truths. His excellency said the ordinary man in the street must have uninterrupted access to facts.

The leader president said a minister must be a veritable leader. A true leader with a good case, the president declared, would rather upset his subordinates than indulge them. He would also reward or please others according to how they perform, the president added. Having conducted himself in this fashion, he would earn God's approval and then the approval and respect of the people. Whoever seeks popular approval and in the process compromises what is right and legitimate stands to lose much.

His excellency said that a mix of jihad and dynamic government and enlightened leadership should promote balanced development in all spheres of life.

Ramadan: 'Economic War' Chapter of 'Conspiracy'

JN2411190193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has said that the Mother of Battles is not a military, technical battle, but a cultural, human, and moral battle. This is, he said, because it is a battle for the sake of right versus wrong and freedom versus slavery.

In a lecture inaugurating the cultural season of the Faculty of Arts at Baghdad University, Ramadan said that the colonialist and Zionist quarters have drawn up more plans to dismantle Iraq than to dismantle the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia. However, he said, the will of the Iraqi people has aborted all their plans. He reaffirmed that Iraq, adhering to its principles and values, maintains its independent political course. He added that the enemy calculations and plots could not predict the process of reconstruction in which the Iraqis have excelled.

The vice president indicated that the economic war is another chapter of the conspiracy against Iraq, and that the Iraqi people, under the leadership of struggler President Saddam Husayn, will thwart this chapter as they did the previous ones. He stressed that the Iraqis will never be exhausted as they proceed in the honorable process of jihad and reconstruction.

'Aziz Meets New York Archbishop, UN Ambassadors

JN2511125893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] New York, 25 Nov (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz last night met with New York Archbishop Cardinal John O'Connor in New York.

Earlier in the day, Tariq 'Aziz met separately with the ambassadors of Brazil, Venezuela, and Spain, nonpermanent members of the UN Security Council.

Tariq 'Aziz also met with the ambassadors of New Zealand, Japan, and Hungary, other nonpermanent members of the UN Security Council.

'Diplomatic Sources' on Support for PLO-Israeli Accord

TA2211153593 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 22 Nov 93 p 12

[Text] During a U.S.-Iraqi meeting in Washington, agreement was reached to ease the sanctions imposed on Iraq. This was told to AL-MANAR by diplomatic sources. The sources said that Nizar Hamdun met U.S. State Department officials with the knowledge of the U.S. President and the secretary of state. During the meeting, the Iraqi official stressed that the Iraqi leadership would unequivocally support the Palestinian-Israeli accord if the sanctions that have been imposed on Iraq for several years as a result of the Gulf War are lifted.

Envoy to Moscow May Be Withdrawn After Opposition Contacts

PM2411095093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Nov 93 p 1

[Sami 'Imarah report: "Russian Diplomatic Sources Tell AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Iraqi Ambassador Expected To Be Withdrawn From Moscow Because of Contacts With Opposition"]

[Text] Moscow—Well-informed sources in the Russian capital have confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT the possibility of withdrawing Iraq's ambassador to Moscow, Ghafil Jasim Husayn al-Tikriti, who is related to President Saddam Husayn (his cousin). The sources pointed out that Baghdad's decision, which has not yet been announced, is attributable to the Iraqi ambassador's activities and extensive contacts with hard-line Russian opposition symbols like Sergey Baburin, leader of the Russian All-National Union, and Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party.

Commenting on the report that Iraq's ambassador to Moscow may be withdrawn, Viktor Posuvalyuk, director of the Middle East and North Africa Department at the Russian Foreign Ministry and formerly Moscow's ambassador to Baghdad, pointed out in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that he has not yet been informed of such a decision, which he said may be attributable—if the report is true—to the expiration of the ambassador's term, as he submitted his credentials on 15 October 1989. Posuvalyuk did not comment on what is being said in Moscow about a diplomatic crisis between Russia and Iraq as a result of Baghdad's rejection of two nominations for Moscow's ambassador, whose names it submitted last year and this year. The first candidate was Oleg Derkovskiy, deputy director of the Middle East Department and currently his country's ambassador to the United Arab Emirates. The second candidate was Yegor Melikhov, Moscow's ambassador to Qatar. It is worth mentioning that the post of Russian ambassador to Baghdad has been vacant since the end of the war to liberate Kuwait.

Daily: Kuwaiti 'Agents' Open Fire on Protestors

JN2411170493 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 21 Nov 93 p 1

[By Muhammad Bakr Salih]

[Text] Umm Qasr—The agents of the regime imposed on Kuwait opened fire with machine guns and rifles on women and children from Umm Qasr Subdistrict in al-Basrah Governorate who took part in the march of solidarity with the farmers of the Umm Qasr and Safwan subdistricts in the demilitarized zone on Saturday [20 November].

AL-JUMHURIYAH witnessed reactions to this flagrantly hostile behavior from the demonstrators, who advanced toward the men of the regime, carrying leader President Saddam Husayn's pictures and chanting: "No borders, no borders, Kuwait will be regained." This frightened the men of the al-Sabah family who fled in panic toward the Kuwait region under the protection of the UN observers.

AL-JUMHURIYAH met several citizens who participated in the march. Citizen Wafiqah 'Abd-al-Samad, age 60, said: Iraq's land extends to the sea, and it cannot be relinquished to anyone. Citizen 'Abd-al-Ghani Najm, age 57, urged the UN observers to allow them to carry weapons, following the model of U.S. border posts, to defend themselves and their lands. Citizen Wijdan Haydar said: We cannot surrender to the dwarfs and leave our land to the slaves and the usurpers. Children Muhammad 'Abd-al-Imam and Ghassan 'Adnan said that the bullets of the cowards would not frighten them and that they would continue resistance until victory.

The demonstration took place after citizens of the two subdistricts were exposed to the unjust practices of the men of the al-Sabah family, who destroyed these citizens' agricultural crops within hearing distance and sight of the UN Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission, which did nothing to stop this cowardly behavior.

Saddam Receives Cables of Thanks

Jordan's King Husayn

JN2111132993 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Nov 93

["Text" of cable from King Husayn of Jordan to President Saddam Husayn; date not given]

[Text] Your Excellency President Saddam Husayn of the Republic of Iraq, may God protect you.

It pleases me to extend my thanks to you for the cable you sent me on my 58th birthday, in which you expressed your sincere sentiments as well as your kind congratulations.

I wish Your Excellency continued good health and the fraternal Iraqi people further progress and prosperity. May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Your brother, Husayn

Oman's Sultan Qabus

JN2311180393 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Nov 93

["Text" of cable from Omani Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id to President Saddam Husayn; date not given]

[Text] His Excellency, brother Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq:

We have received your cable of congratulations on the 26th anniversary of the glorious national day. We thank you for this good gesture and the noble feelings you expressed. We beseech God Almighty to grant you good health and happiness and the fraternal Iraqi people further progress and development under your wise leadership. We also beseech him to make all our days happy ones. Please accept my dearest brotherly appreciation and respect.

[Signed] Your brother, Qabus Bin-Sa'id

Opposition Committee Ends Meetings in Damascus

PM2411162493 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Nov 93 p 7

[Unattributed report: "Damascus: Al-Ahmar Meets With Iraqi Oppositionists"]

[Text] Damascus, AL-HAYAH—The Iraqi Democratic Committee for Coordinating Pan-Arab Action ended its meetings in Damascus yesterday with a meeting between 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the ruling Ba'th Party in Syria, and the nine members of the committee.

Sources from the meetings have told AL-HAYAH that during the meetings, which lasted a few days, the committee discussed the method "of the pan-Arab tendency's movement with other Iraqi political forces and international quarters to topple the regime of (President) Saddam (Husayn)." The sources added that the meeting dealt with the "economic embargo imposed on the Iraqi people, who are oppressed twice over: by the regime and by the embargo."

The sources emphasized the Iraqi opposition's unity and the alliance between the pan-Arab, Islamic, and Kurdish tendencies, renewing their rejection of the Salah al-Din conference and its institutions and committees. They said: "We are not concerned with it, even though we participated in its preparation." They pointed out that some Iraqi opposition forces, like the al-Da'wah Party, have withdrawn from the conference and that other parties are thinking of withdrawing. However, they stressed that the opposition's unity "requires the unity of all tendencies." They pointed out that the pan-Arab tendency is moving toward forming a "national front."

Police Kill Territories' Hamas Military Leader

TA2411183793 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] 'Imad 'Aqil, the leader of 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam [the military arm of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement] in the territories, was killed this evening by the security forces. Our correspondent in the south Shlomi Eldar reports that a Border Police unit spotted a suspicious car in the city of Gaza. When its passengers failed to heed their calls, the policemen opened fire, and 'Imad 'Aqil was killed. A pistol was found among his belongings.

The 21-year-old 'Aqil had been on the security forces' wanted list for two years. He is suspected of having perpetrated dozens of terrorist attacks against IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops in the Gaza Strip and of planning most of the attacks perpetrated by 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam gangs in the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent estimates that the death of the most prominent Hamas terrorist will deal a lethal blow to the organization's military activities.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 24 November adds that another Arab was killed today in the Jabalyah refugee camp, when "IDF soldiers opened fire at a car that failed to stop at a roadblock. The driver was shot and killed. The IDF is looking into the circumstances of the incident."]

Baraq Commends IDF, Shin Bet

TA2411192093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Excerpts] The security forces this evening killed the most prominent wanted man in the territories. He is 'Imad 'Aqil, the leader of 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam, the military arm of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that around 1800 this evening an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit identified 'Imad 'Aqil driving in a car with another wanted man in the city's al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood. 'Aqil opened fire at the soldiers. They returned the fire, and 'Aqil was seriously wounded, later dying of his wounds. His friend, 'Abd-al-Fatah al-Satari, one of the most senior Hamas members in the Gaza Strip, was arrested after he tried to escape. The security forces closed off the area and captured him. He was taken in for interrogation. [passage omitted]

Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, chief of staff, this evening commended the commander of the Southern Command, the commander of IDF troops in the Gaza Strip, and the head of the Shin Bet for the operation that resulted in 'Imad 'Aqil's death. Baraq noted that this is an important landmark in the war against terrorism which was scored, among other things, due to the alertness of the troops.

Fatah has declared a three-day strike in the Gaza Strip to protest 'Aqil's killing. Our correspondent reports that several wanted men who are members of the Fatah Hawks took to the streets in Rafah firing shots into the air. They notified the population that they must strike as a sign of mourning over the death of the great commander 'Imad 'Aqil, as they put it.

Rabin: Killing 'Big Achievement'

TA2411203393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, has said that the killing in Gaza today of 'Imad 'Aqil, the leader of 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, is a big achievement for the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the security forces. 'Imad 'Aqil murdered Israeli soldiers and civilians, and all murderers will meet the same end, Mr. Rabin said.

Commenting on Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni's remarks about the whereabouts of missing navigator Ron Arad, the prime minister said: Only people who are in possession of information should talk. People who are not should not blabber, fostering the hopes and expectations of relatives and later causing them disappointment. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that defense establishment officials say there is nothing new with regard to navigator Ron Arad.

[In a report at 1800 GMT on 24 November, Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew had carried the following report:

["Muhammad Basyuni, the Egyptian ambassador to Israel, said today that he knows for a fact that missing navigator Ron Arad is alive and is being held in Lebanon. Ambassador Basyuni made these remarks in an interview with our correspondent Razi Barqay. Basyuni added that he does not know who is holding Ron Arad, who was taken prisoner in October 1986, but he calls on all world leaders to take immediate action for his release."]

Riots Break Out in Gaza

TA2511072793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Serious riots have erupted in the Gaza Strip following yesterday's incident in which an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit killed the head of Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] military arm. Following 'Imad 'Aqil's killing, Palestinian organizations called for a strike and a violent reaction. From Gaza's hospital it was reported that eight residents of the city and its environs were brought in for treatment with IDF gunshot wounds. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that since early morning there have been clashes with IDF forces. The strike is broad, and traffic is very light. Stones are blocking roads and tires are burning in various places.

Our correspondent notes that Hamas people are calling from the mosques to attack the Jews, and the loudspeakers are echoing with the cry: Kill the Jews!

Yesterday Fatah called on Gaza Strip residents to hold a three-day strike, and this morning Hamas joined the call. [passage omitted]

'Worst Rioting' Since September Accord

TA2511185993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Report by Mark Weiss]

[Text] The first day of the three-day general strike called by both Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Fatah was marked with the worst rioting in the Strip since the Israel-PLO peace accord was signed in September. Twenty-five Gaza residents were wounded by Army fire during the disturbances, according to hospital sources, and two remain in serious condition.

Throughout the Strip, protesters threw stones and petrol bombs at soldiers and burned tires. The worst riots were centered in and around the Gaza city. Thousands marched in a mock funeral with activists waving black flags and copies of the Koran.

Hamas put out a pamphlet in the street warning Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq that the group would avenge the death of 'Imad 'Aqil. Quoting 'Aqil, the pamphlet said: Killing Israeli soldiers is an act of worship by which we get close to God. The pamphlet also reminded Baraq that there are 28 other fugitives still at large in the Strip.

[Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 25 November adds: "A short time ago in Gaza, an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit opened fire at a car bearing local license plates after the driver failed to stop at a roadblock. Three passengers were wounded, one of them a Saudi tourist, while a second passenger sustained serious head wounds."

[The report goes on to say that "according to IDF sources, we are not witnessing a recurrence of the intifadah. The commander of the northern sector of the Gaza Strip said this evening that only dozens of people, not masses, took part in today's riots."]

Shot Saudi Businessman Dies

TA2611055593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Ahmad Zahrani, 39, a Saudi businessman of Palestinian origin, was killed in a Gaza incident. He was wounded by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] gunfire last night and died of his wounds at Tel Hashomer Hospital. Our correspondent Mozi Amir reports that Zahrani came to Gaza to visit relatives and look into the possibility of investing in the Strip. He was shot when he did not stop his vehicle at an IDF roadblock.

Two other passengers were wounded by the shots. They were treated at Gaza hospital and then fled. The IDF believes they are on the wanted list and is investigating the circumstances surrounding the incident.

Hebron's Hamas Leader Shot Dead in Jerusalem; Riots Ensue

TA2611155993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Report by police correspondent Tali Katzenelson]

[Text] Khalid Mahmud Mustafa Zayr, commander of an 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squad in the Hebron District, was shot dead by the security forces in the Arab village of Sur Bahir in southern Jerusalem this morning. Zayr was responsible for the murder of Mordekhay Lipkin from Tequa' and of serviceman Tziyon Alqobi; for shooting at an Egged bus and wounding its driver in the Halhul area in September; and for wounding four IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers near Si'ir, also in September. He was also responsible for the murder of several collaborators.

Acting on information that Mustafa Zayr, long on the wanted list, might be hiding in one of three Sur Bahir houses belonging to one family, the security forces last night surrounded the houses. At 0800 today, after the security forces ordered the inhabitants out of the three houses, Zayr tried to escape. He ran out of one of the houses firing at the security forces. The troops opened fire and killed him.

Two brothers residing in one of the houses were detained on suspicion of abetting the fugitive and of belonging to a hostile organization.

At about 1300, as the security forces were removing the body from the village, rioting began. The residents hurled stones at policemen, and the security forces had to fire rubber bullets to stop the rampage.

The Jerusalem police now fear that riots will ensue from Zayr's death today and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] commander 'Imad 'Aqil's death two days ago. Beefed-up numbers of police, commanded by Jerusalem District Police Deputy Commander Moshe Friedman watched over today's prayers on Temple Mount. The prayers and the sermon, which preached against the peace process, were attended by 20,000 people. The Jerusalem police will further deploy over the weekend.

Security Forces Uncover, Arrest DFLP, Hamas Squads

TA2611150493 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Nov 93 p A2

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] The security forces and the Jerusalem police have recently uncovered two terrorist squads which operated in the Jerusalem seam area—one in Sur Bahir and another in al-Tur. The two squads are believed to have perpetrated a series of grave terrorist attacks last month. One of the acts attributed to the first squad is the mine placed in the Hapa'amon outpost; five Israeli tourists were injured in that incident, one of them seriously. The al-Tur squad is believed to have tossed a Molotov cocktail into a bar mitzvah party in the Mount Zion Hotel, injuring several guests.

The security forces are holding Sur Bahir residents Samir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Ahmad Dabash, and Mahmud al-Masri. The three men, who are affiliated with the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], have admitted to a series of attacks and have been indicted. [passage omitted]

Three other suspects held by the security forces are Salim Zu'abi, Badir Hasan Hirawi, and Bassam Talib, all from al-Tur. The three, who belonged to a squad affiliated with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], specialized in car and warehouse arson and hurled Molotov cocktails throughout the Jerusalem area. [passage omitted]

Peace Opponents Score 'Landslide' in Bi'r Zayt Poll

TA2411204093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Advocates of the peace agreement with Israel have been defeated in the elections to the student council at Bi'r Zayt University, Fatah's bastion in Judaea and Samaria. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a combined list of the peace opponents—made up of representatives of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]—scored a landslide in the elections and defeated the list of the peace supporters which consisted of Fatah, al-Shabibah, and the communists. Our correspondent notes that the odd alliance between the PFLP, the DFLP, and Hamas gained all nine seats in the student council executive.

Fatah supporters in Ramallah told our correspondent that this outcome constitutes a fatal blow to Yasir 'Arafat's supporters who favored the peace agreement.

Unrest, Tension Follow

TA2511092693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Great tension is reported at Bi'r Zayt University. Hanna Nasir, chairman of the Bi'r Zayt University board of directors, is considering closing down the university in order to prevent confrontations among the students following Fatah's defeat in yesterday's elections. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that last night Fatah-affiliated students damaged equipment on the campus, especially in the Student Union offices. They also torched the car of Chairman Hanna Nasir. Fatah people blame him for preventing 180 new students from participating in the elections, thereby enabling the opponents of peace to win.

Yasir 'Arafat reprimanded Sari Nusaybah and Husayn al-Shaykh, Fatah commander in the Ramallah region, during a meeting in Athens yesterday. Rajib Jibril, Fatah commander in the Ramallah region [title as heard], was severely reprimanded by PLO-Tunis.

Peres Comments

TA2511112793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, in Maastricht, by Yisra'el Segal—live]

[Excerpt] [Segal] You have probably heard about the results of the Bi'r Zayt University elections and the riots in Gaza today. Do not the elections results indicate that our basic assumptions were too optimistic and mistaken, that the Palestinians do not want peace?

[Peres] I do not think so. I think we should not draw such far-reaching conclusions from this event. I understand that the results of the elections were something like 1,200 against 1,300, and this can very well be the result of the situation in the university itself. I believe that most of the Palestinians want peace and need peace. By seeking peace they are serving their own needs, not those of anybody else.

[Segal] Mr. Peres, I understand that so far you have not met Yasir 'Arafat.

[Peres] No, I have not met him. He phoned me and we exchanged greetings and pleasantries over the phone, that's all.

[Segal] Did you discuss the Bi'r Zayt elections results and the events in Gaza today?

[Peres] No, we had no opportunity to do so, because we spoke yesterday at noon, prior to the reports on the elections results. [passage omitted]

Shahal: Vote 'Red Light'

TA2511175893 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Israel will not be obliged to adhere to the Oslo agreement if the Palestinian peace opponents win the general elections in the territories. This observation was made by Police Minister Moshe Shahal in the wake of the rejectionist front's victory in the Bi'r Zayt University elections.

[Begin Shahal recording] If a body which does not support the Israel-PLO agreement is elected, our side will obviously not be bound by an agreement dismissed by the other side. It is up to them to prove that they have a majority among their own public. In my opinion, the Bi'r Zayt elections are a red light which should draw their attention to the problem. [end recording]

Rabin Office Clarifies Shin Bet Orders on Settlers

TA2411123293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] This morning, the prime minister's bureau issued a clarification: The Shin Bet is not engaged in following Jewish settlers in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza or their legitimate protest activities. This clarification followed press reports and was issued after a discussion this morning at the prime minister's bureau. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir is in the studio with the report:

[Nir] The discussion this morning was attended by the prime minister and defense minister, the justice and police ministers, the attorney general, the chief of staff and his deputy, and Shin Bet officials. The prime minister's bureau stated that the duty of the defense establishment to provide full security to the Jewish and Arab residents of the territories was stressed at the meeting. In this regard, the need to act with determination against the terrorist and hostile activities of the terror organizations was reiterated. The prime minister ordered the defense authorities to make a supreme effort in their struggle against terrorists who aim to disrupt the peace process.

Regarding the Jewish settlers, the participants of meeting expressed the need to strictly enforce the law against certain small elements from among the settlers. At the same time, the prime minister's bureau states that the participants expressed the need to take into consideration the settlers' legitimate right to express their stand in a democratic manner which does not disturb public order.

Attorney General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir presented a series of recommendations and instructions regarding law enforcement in the territories and expanding the police involvement in the activities to this end. The recommendations were not reported.

The prime minister's bureau wished to clarify that the Shin Bet is tasked, among other things, with foiling violent activities aimed at harming the state security and the rule of law. The Shin Bet tasks, as so far determined by the Israeli governments, have not changed. The bureau here adds what can be called a punch line to the statement: The Shin Bet has not been given any new tasks recently. The Shin Bet does not engage in monitoring Jewish settlers in the territories, nor does it follow their expression of opinions and protests when done according to the law.

Police Document Details Steps

TA2511102993 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 25 Nov 93 p 2

[Report by Tova Tzimuqi]

[Text] The police will set up special intervention units for the territories which will be tasked with quickly handling riots by Jewish settlers there.

This is stated in a document Police Minister Moshe Shahal presented in the special session Prime Minister Rabin summoned yesterday to discuss law enforcement in the territories.

The "confidential" document gives details on steps the Israel Police intend take to enforce the law on Israeli residents of the territories. Implementing the plan will cost 175 million shekels annually, with an additional one-time investment of 165 million shekels in the first year.

According to the document, the Israel Police will assign a force of 2,250 men and 260 vehicles to this mission. The force will be stationed in 16 police stations, and will be made of several units:

—A special intervention unit that will handle developing events, including the evacuation of crowds, clearing roads and intersections, carrying out arrests, and more.

—An intelligence unit which will expose intentions to violate the law and disturb good order, and the people who plan these acts.

—Patrol and traffic control units which will maintain a high profile, thus preventing riots.

—Investigation and prosecution units which will investigate the incidents and bring the perpetrators to trial.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio at 0930 GMT on 25 November adds: "Referring to press reports regarding the establishment of a special Israel Police intervention force in the areas of the Palestinian autonomy, Minister Shahal said that the force will be made of several dozen policemen, and will assist the Army in handling riots by both Jewish settlers and Palestinian residents."]

One of the chapters of the police document gives reasons Israeli rioters in the territories have not yet been tried:

—The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers, who have so far handled most of the incidents, lack professional knowledge regarding the collection of evidence. Detainees cannot be brought to trial in the absence of evidence, even if they were arrested during very violent incidents.

—The large number of incidents and the fact that they have taken place over a wide area require a large number of well-trained police investigators to work with the Army. The Israel Police do not have enough manpower for such a task.

—Policemen cannot travel in the territories without a military escort. Such an escort is particularly essential when the investigation of law violations by Israelis are held in areas populated by Arabs. The Army, however, cannot always assign the men needed for this task, which harms police investigations.

—The Palestinians generally avoid filing complaints against Israeli settlers who harm them.

The discussion on law enforcement in the territories was attended by the prime minister, the police minister, Justice Minister David Liba'i, Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq, Attorney General Mikha'el Ben- Ya'ir, and the head of the Shin Bet.

Here are the decisions made in yesterday's discussion at the prime minister's bureau:

—A coordination system will be established between the bodies operating in the territories—the Israel Police, the Army, and the Shin Bet—in order to expedite the arrival of police to the scenes of riots in the territories. The aim of this is having the Israel Police, not the IDF, handle those who violate the law.

—The State Attorney's Office will expedite legal proceedings against law violators in order to put them on trial as quickly as possible.

—The Committee for Security on the Roads will not be outlawed for the time being, despite the fact that some of its members have recently rioted in the West Bank. The authorities will take action against individuals operating in the framework of the committee.

—The IDF and the Shin Bet will add the means for the struggle against Palestinian terrorists who oppose the agreement with the PLO, to provide further security for the settlers.

'Autonomy Police' for Settlers

TA2511193493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Police Minister Moshe Shahal announced today that Israel is setting up a special police force which will be responsible for Jewish residents living in the territories. More from reporter Alan Ben-'Ami:

Police Minister Shahal has already discussed his ideas with Prime Minister and Defense Minister Rabin and the chief of staff, and he says they had been looked at favorably. The Army would continue to hold overall responsibility for the areas, but daily security patrols and operations as well as regular law enforcement activities would be carried out by uniformed policemen and Border Police, ideally working closely with members of the Palestinian police force as it takes over autonomous areas.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces], says Shahal, would turn its attention more to safeguarding the borders and to handling external threats to security.

The police minister sees the creation of a special Israeli autonomy police force taking place gradually. The Army, due to redeploy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho areas beginning next month, would initially maintain security activities for the benefit of Israelis in those areas. But, by April, the police would almost double its present strength and operate from new police stations to be built at various locations in the territories. [passage omitted]

The police presence in the territories has already been stepped up in the wake of violence and demonstrations by Jewish settlers there, and coordination has been improved with the Army to ensure that police officers will now be on the spot whenever disturbances break out. Shahal says the soldiers have had to deal with many of those disturbances, but they have never been trained to observe, take testimony, or prepare a report so that successful legal action can be taken against law breakers.

If his proposal for an autonomy police wins approval, Shahal envisages an eventual force of some 10,000 men, a majority operating within the framework of the Border Police. The final size of the force would be in relation to the overall strength of the Palestine police force. And Shahal envisages close cooperation between the two, and even joint patrols on the road.

The extent of cooperation and coordination between Israelis and Palestinians is now under discussion. On the question of who will have jurisdiction when it comes to making an arrest, Shahal says that where an Israeli is concerned, that answer is already quite clear.

[Begin Shahal recording] There is a very clear answer for this question: Never will be allowed for a Palestinian police officer to arrest an Israeli. The Israelis are going to be under the jurisdiction of the security forces of Israel. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Rabin Addresses Labor Forum on Settlements

TA2511182793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Report by party affairs correspondent Shmu'el Tal]

[Text] Addressing the Labor party's political committee in Tel Aviv this afternoon, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said: I believe Labor and the government now have an opportunity to bring about a change that will be felt for many years to come. He noted that the Labor party's platform before the elections focused on peace and security, as well as social changes in the spheres of infrastructure, education, and employment. We are entering a period in which our agreement with the Palestinians will be tested, Rabin said. All the options will be open during that period. There is consent on the unity of Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty, on the freedom of worship for all religions, on the settlements' remaining where they are, and on Israel's retaining responsibility for security. We will try to adhere to the timetable, the prime minister said, but the 13 December date may change.

[Begin Rabin recording] I do not believe in sacred dates. The earnestness of negotiations and the insistence on security components first and foremost will be our test. And outside of that, let them run their own lives. I have no problem with greater Gaza city, in which 250,000

Palestinians and not a single Israeli reside. Let them run Gaza, let them run Khan Yunus, let them run Dayr al-Balah. We want to retain the Qatif Bloc, the Nisanit Bloc, Eley Yam [as heard]; the isolated settlements of Netzarim and Kfar Darom; the traffic axes, which should be made safe and secure through our own efforts.

There are 750,000 Palestinians there, and I do not think running their life and maintaining law and public order there is an easy task. We would like to achieve an agreement that will give them that which is theirs and give us that which is ours. And, we would like to achieve coexistence in fact, not in words: in relations, in the security situation. There are enough Palestinian elements who would like to disrupt that. [end recording]

The prime minister said he was aware of the criticism leveled at the agreement. I am not flustered by polls, Rabin said, but the implementation of this agreement still lies ahead of us. I believe we should take risks, and the risk in these negotiations is not as great as those inherent in the price exacted by Syria.

[Summing up the same Rabin address on Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 25 November, reporter Sefi Handler adds: "In the political part of his speech, the prime minister said that not a single settlement would be evacuated. No settlement would be uprooted, not even one inhabited by four families, he said."]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 25 November also carries a report on Rabin's remarks, including a recorded passage in which Rabin says: "I assume I will be able to judge the PLO's performance only when we sign an agreement and when the agreement is implemented. I cannot demand at this time that PLO-Tunis take charge of the situation in the Gaza Strip, for instance, because we are in charge in Gaza and it is up to us to take care of security. I do not expect declarations from him ['Arafat]. I expect the PLO and the Palestinian delegates to reach an agreement with us; they will be tested by their ability to implement the agreement after they gradually assume responsibility for the places in which they will be able to maintain law and public order and to prevent terror."]

Beilin, Settlers Discuss Future of Jordan Rift Valley

TA2611100193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin said that during the interim arrangement, territorial contiguity in the Jordan Rift Valley cannot be assured. Under the permanent settlement, most of the territories in the region will come under Palestinian sovereignty, he said. In a stormy meeting with representatives of United Kibbutz Movement settlements in the region, Beilin rejected the demand by Jordan Rift Valley and northern Dead Sea kibbutzim for territorial contiguity. He said that under the agreement, some of the settlements will come under Arab sovereignty and will have to decide whether to remain in place. At the same time, Beilin made it clear that he would support holding general elections or a referendum if the government does not succeed in fulfilling its election promise to keep the Jordan Rift Valley, the northern Dead Sea, the 'Etzyon Bloc, and the Greater Jerusalem area.

The participants were angered by Beilin's remarks that the government will avoid investing in Jordan Rift settlements during the negotiations because it must come to the talks with its hands clean. Several participants sharply attacked Deputy Minister Beilin for his statements.

Efforts To Be Made To Retain Areas Claimed by Jordan

TA2411191293 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew

[Report by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik]

[Excerpts] Israel will make every possible effort to retain the areas claimed by Jordan in the south of the country, but at this stage there is no certainty that this will be possible, and if so, under what conditions. This was relayed this evening to the heads of settlement councils in the 'Arava and the southern Dead Sea by the cabinet secretary and the prime minister's adviser on settlement affairs in a meeting held at the Prime Minister's Office. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports:

The representatives of the settlements arrived in the Prime Minister's Office tonight at their request. Equipped with a map, they met with Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein—who is the head of the delegation to the talks with Jordan—and with the prime minister's adviser on settlement affairs.

The 'Arava settlers are worried about reports concerning an imminent peace agreement which, among other things, includes the handing back of territories to Jordan. The reference is mainly, but not only, to areas near Hazeva and 'En Yahav; to fields where a blossoming agriculture has been developed and where good water sources have been found. Due to the sensitivity of the issue, both sides did not give any prior publicity to today's meeting. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Secretary Rubinstein would not comment on the meeting, but we have learned that he did not make any commitment with regard to a future agreement with Jordan. As for the disputed areas, he led his audience to understand that nothing had yet been finalized.

Settler Arrested for Arms, Explosives Bought in U.S.

TA2611113193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] The Kefar Sava Magistrate's Court extended the detention of Avraham Toledano, a resident of Qiryat Arba' and head of the Har Habayit Yeshiva, who returned from the United States with materiel to carry out sabotage and attacks, for another 10 days. Our correspondent Yafa Glick reports that in their request to extend the remand, the police said that Toledano had purchased equipment to make explosives, including delaying mechanisms and switches, as well as silencers for rifles and telescopes for weapons, in the United States. He also bought night vision equipment, equipment to monitor police communications, and special gloves to prevent gunpowder traces from sticking to the hands. The police representative told the court that the investigation has only just started and that the suspect has stopped cooperating with investigators.

The judge said the police must find out who Toledano's partners are here in Israel and abroad. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that Toledano is a member of Kakh, but the movement's spokesman said he was acting on his own.

Netanyahu: Likud Government Would Honor PLO Agreement

TA2411170093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu has said that when the Likud returns to power it will honor the agreement with the PLO, but it will make sure that a Palestinian state is not established and will act against the dangers inherent in the agreement. Knesset Member [MK] Netanyahu was reacting to the remarks made in the United States by former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to the effect that the Likud would scrap the agreement when it returns to power.

MK Moshe Qatzav, chairman of the Likud Knesset faction, told our correspondent Shmu'el Tal that the government must honor its commitments on the basis of reciprocity and, consequently, the PLO should renounce terror and amend the Palestine Convention.

MK Me'ir Shitrit criticized onslaughts on the government by Israelis abroad, while MK Eliyahu Ben-Elizar said Yitzhaq Shamir did the right thing when he explained to U.S. Jews the dangers looming in front of Israel as a result of the government's policy.

Wants PLA's Entry Into Gaza Stopped

TA2611061093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Likud party Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu has called on the government to stop the entry of the Palestine Liberation Army [PLA] into Gaza. He said a test period should be implemented to see that quiet returns to the region. Netanyahu met last night with dozens of Likud Central Committee members from Judaea and Samaria.

Shahal: Eytan Should Resign Over Uranium Disclosure

TA2411153593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Energy Minister Moshe Shahal has sharply criticized Tzomet's Knesset Member [MK] Refa'el Eytan and accused him of publicizing secret information which came to his knowledge in his capacity as chief of staff and inflicting irreparable damage to Israel.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the information in question refers to a report publicized by MK Eytan whereby the maps Minister Shahal handed over to Egypt last week showed the location of uranium deposits in the Sinai.

Replying to a motion to the agenda submitted by MK Yosi Katz, Shahal said the maps and copies of a geological survey conducted in the Sinai have been made public and are available to anybody wishing to use them, but that it was Eytan who made the disclosure about uranium deposits. Minister Shahal claims that Eytan gained this information while he was still in the Army and publicized his arguments without asking him or the Energy Ministry to comment.

Shahal called on MK Eytan to hand in his resignation. This is not the first time that Eytan has spread lies, and the Knesset's Ethics Committee has reprimanded him for it in the past, Shahal asserted.

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 23 November in a page 19 report by Arye Bender notes that "MK Refa'el Eytan claimed that if the Egyptians exploit the minerals they will no longer need to import uranium in order to produce nuclear weapons."

[MA'ARIV quotes MK Eytan as saying: "These were mineral deposits of the highest quality. When I was chief of staff, a lump of uranium that contained a vein of gold was placed on my desk. This uranium is of infinitely higher quality than the ordinary stuff." Eytan contends, "giving this information to Egypt constitutes nothing less than handing over strategic information to the enemy. Why should they receive information about such deposits? This could cause tremendous damage to Israel's security."

[The paper writes that according to MK Eytan, "Israel either did not use or was too late in exploiting these minerals." Moreover, Eytan said: "I do not know why the uranium discovered in Sinai were not used. Perhaps we did not want the Egyptians to learn of what we had discovered."]

Officials Admit Businessmen Visiting Israel

JN2511113593 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25-26 Nov 93 p 3

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Officials Wednesday confirmed that Jordanian businessmen had been visiting Israel and the occupied territories in pursuit of commercial ventures but that the government was not involved in the visits or the discussions they might have had with Israeli officials or businessmen.

"People have been calling government officials to inform them that they are planning to visit, but that is about all of any official involvement in the affair," said a senior official.

According to the official, who preferred anonymity, the government is not discouraging businessmen from exploring prospects in the occupied territories against the improving climate in the quest for Middle East peace. But, he said, it will be sometime before the government could become involved since Jordan and Israel have not signed a peace treaty.

"It is difficult to pinpoint this or that delegation visited and held talks with Israelis on business prospects," said the official. "To the best of our understanding there are no such delegations, except perhaps some businessmen getting together and travelling together."

Following Israeli reports of "business agreements" with Jordanian companies, officials have now made it a policy to get detailed information from businessmen who inform them of their travel plans, the official said.

Israeli Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'zer said in remarks published Wednesday that Jordanian "experts" had "met Israeli ministers and businessmen to develop cooperation projects."

Mr. Ben-Eli'zer was quoted as saying students at a technical institute in Tel Aviv said that "Israelis in the next few years will begin making huge investments in large construction projects in Jordan."

"We must prepare for a new era in the Middle East which will lead quickly to economic cooperation between Israel on one hand, Morocco, Tunisia, and Qatar on the other," Mr. Ben-Eli'zer was quoted as saying.

"We don't know who the experts are that he was talking about," said another senior official. "They were definitely not Jordanian government representatives."

In principle, Jordan has accepted that it would have to do business with Israel after an Arab-Israeli peace settlement has been reached.

His Majesty King Husayn said in a U.S. television interview that Jordan had "nothing to fear from" economic cooperation with the Jewish state, but that such cooperation would have to wait until a peace settlement has been signed.

There are also officials who believe that business interaction with Israelis at this point in time could be counter-productive in terms of advancing the peace process to a just solution to the basic conflict.

"It is overindulgence," said a senior official closely involved with economic development in Jordan. "We should not encourage Israelis into believing that they can hope to have any form of normal ties with the Arabs without granting the Palestinians their legitimate rights and returning the Arab territories Israel is occupying."

Among those who visited Israel and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip recently were bankers, shipping and travel agents, exporters and importers as well as industrialists.

At least three teams of businessmen of Palestinian origin settled outside their homeland visited the occupied territories in the last two months on trips arranged in coordination with Faysal al-Husayni, a leading figure in peace negotiations with Israel and pro-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) activist in the occupied territories.

PLO sources said those visits were strictly within the framework of the concerned businessmen's involvement in Palestinian economic development and had little to do with doing direct business with Israeli firms.

Sources in the Chamber of Commerce and the Chamber of Industry, the umbrella groups for businessmen, said they were aware of the visits, but none of them would provide names.

"The vision is medium and long-term," said one source. "No one is going to set up joint ventures here or elsewhere with Israelis until the climate of peace becomes conducive."

"Many businessmen feel that they could lose opportunities if they stayed put," said the source. "They would like to explore and find out for themselves what kinds of opportunities exist so that they could be prepared to move in when the time is right."

"No one could expect to see Israeli products in the Jordanian market tomorrow if that is what the Israelis want," he said. "By and large most businessmen are closely aware of the political implications of doing business with Israel before the basic issues of conflict have been addressed in a manner acceptable to all sides."

On the other hand, businessmen have also come off no better if not more "confused" after talks with Palestinians in the occupied territories, officials say.

"As long as the economic basis for Israeli-Palestinian relations in the next stage is not spelled out, no one is able to see with any sense of accuracy what is possible and what is not," said the senior official.

The official explained that Jordanian-Palestinian economic links depended to a large extent on the success of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations as well as Jordanian-Israeli negotiations within the framework of the joint Jordanian-American-Israeli working group set up duing the visit of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan to Washington in October when he met with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

Banking circles said senior officials from several banks were regular visitors to the occupied territories but that their visits were more related to arrangements for reopening branches closed in the occupied territories in 1967 and exploring prospects for new branches.

"Someone has to go and make the actual arrangements on the ground such as refurbishing the buildings and setting up the infrastructure for banking operations, including recruitment and training of staff," said a senior banker.

Jordanian and Israeli officials have been negotiating terms of Jordanian control of banks in the occupied territories for several months now, but no accord has been reached.

"We are not there yet," said the senior official.

Oil Well Closed for 'Political' Reasons

JN2411174893 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 24 Nov 93 p 1

[Text] AL-BILAD has learned from informed sources that the government's oil prospecting effort in the Jordan valley has yielded an oil well on the Zarah-Ghawr al-Hadithah road with a production capacity of roughly 2,000 barrels per day.

Surprisingly, the government has decided to close the well on the pretext that water constitutes 80 percent of the extracted material.

Informed sources attribute the closure to political rather than economic reasons. After the discovery of the well, the Ministry of Labor expedited work on a road passing by the well to facilitate the transport of the crude to the refinery.

According to the sources, in view of the proximity of the well to the international borders with the occupied territories, and the Jordanian Government's fear that the well may become a bone of contention in the multilateral talks, it was decided to shut the well until after the border demarcation in Wadi 'Arabah is completed.

Iran Denies Involvement in Jordan Valley Incident

JN2411213193 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 24 Nov 93 p 4

["Clarification" from the Information Section at the Iranian Cultural Office in Amman to AL-BILAD Chief Editor Ra'id Salihah; date not given]

[Text] Mr. Ra'id Salihah, chief editor of the esteemed newspaper AL-BILAD, peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

Subject: Clarification about the news analysis entitled: "Who Carried Out the al-Karamah Operation?," published on page three in issue No. 43, dated 3 November 1993, in your esteemed newspaper.

First and foremost, the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] also wonders who carried out the al-Karamah operation, in which a hero of the valiant Jordanian army was martyred. This is because the IRI is the first party to denounce terrorism, particularly this operation. The question posed now is: Why was Iran accused at this particular time when the governments of Iran and the fraternal Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan are working to promote their sisterly and cordial relations in various fields?

Such acts only serve the enemies of both Islam and Muslims. Since its establishment, the IRI has proven that such accusations do not apply to it and do not conform to its policy because the IRI was founded to fight and end terrorism. The IRI has never adopted or supported terrorism. Recent history confirms to you that many false accusations have been leveled against the IRI. These accusations, however, soon proved false, even in this fraternal country.

You said that the perpetrator easily obtained a visa from the United States, which embraces agents and terrorists and is the largest state hostile to Muslims in general and to Iran in particular. Some groups, however, which are far away from Islam, try to sow discord among Muslims under the disguise of Islam, at a time when the Muslims should be united to champion and regain the glories and heroic deeds of both Islam and Muslims.

The IRI does not deny that it extends assistance to Muslims throughout the Islamic world and wherever they are present. This assistance, however, is only extended through a positive, reformatory, and legitimate manner that does not breach the security and stability of any state. This assistance is also extended in cooperation and coordination with state officials and institutions in accordance with the laws and interests of these states. This assistance is not extended in any way whatsoever by individuals or through terrorism, which is sponsored and adopted by the United States and its regional agents such as Israel and other parties.

We would like, and expect, your newspaper to be a catalyst in promoting the fraternal relations between the Jordanian and Iranian peoples. I hope that you will publish this clarification in the same place on the same page in which the news analysis was published in accordance with the Publications Law. Thank you for your good cooperation. [signed] The Information Section at the Iranian Cultural Office in Amman, Jordan.

United Arab Strategy for Christopher Visit Urged

JN2611085293 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 Nov 93 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "Ahead of Christopher's Tour of the Region"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn, who enjoys a noble Hashemite Arab perception, a piercing perspective, and an acknowledged political shrewdness, believes enhanced coordination among the cordon states and agreement among them on a unified position must precede U.S. Secretary of State Christopher's tour of the region. It is widely known that there are constant Israeli attempts to partition the peace process and conclude separate peace accords with individual Arab parties in order to weaken the positions of other Arab parties.

There is no denying that the bilateral negotiations are stalemated on some tracks and are very much alive on others. This requires a joint Arab assessment by all cordon states to reconsider calculations and evaluate the current state of affairs in a manner that would promote and consummate inter-Arab coordination. Such coordination should make all cordon states speak the same language when they receive Christopher. This language should be inspired by the constants of the principled Arab position, which adheres to a comprehensive solution on all tracks of the negotiations.

Because His Majesty King Husayn has firm convictions regarding all that has been said, he has begun active and successful moves on the Arab scene. These moves were manifested in visits his majesty has made to Syria and Egypt to agree with them on common denominators that delineate the common Arab stance with regard to peace moves. Such a stance should make it clear that there will be no abandonment of a single Arab right and that holy Jerusalem shall not be ceded.

Undoubtedly, the visits to Syria and Egypt by His Majesty King Husayn as well as his talks with Presidents al-Asad and Mubarak have been well-timed, particularly since these visits took place ahead of U.S. Secretary of State Christopher's tour of the region. It is to be recalled that Husayn's talks in both Syria and Cairo were successful by all standards.

Suffice it to say that the Jordanian-Syrian talks, and the Jordanian-Egyptian talks have dispelled suspicions and doubts regarding the possible conclusion of separate deals with Israel, and underscored the need for a comprehensive solution, opposition to separate settlements, as well as the determination to thwart such settlements.

In this regard, it should be noted that the required coordination among the cordon states should be based on principled foundations to which all parties without exception should commit themselves under all circumstances, even if the entire peace process were to be halted. Besides, success on a single track of negotiations should not be at the expense of negotiations on other tracks. This is what His Majesty King Husayn has sought to underscore during his talks in both Syria and Egypt. We believe that his mission in this regard was successful.

Given all this, there is a pressing need for the capitals of all cordon states to speak the same language when they meet Christopher. These capitals must affirm to him their commitment to the constants governing the Arab position.

Editorial: Husayn-Mubarak Summit Boosts Arab Stance

JN2511111093 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Nov 93 pp 1, 22

[Editorial: "The Jordanian-Egyptian Summit"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn's short working visit to Cairo acquires exceptional importance in light of the important issues raised during the visit. Moreover, this visit coincides with a series of current major developments in the Middle East, not to mention the important role Jordan and Egypt are playing within the framework of the peace process.

Hence, His Majesty King Husayn's meeting with his brother His Excellency President Husni Mubarak gives a boost to the Arab negotiating stand at this stage and offers new momentum to the peace process to which Amman and Cairo adhere, and have been carrying out for many years with the aim of restoring all legitimate Arab rights.

It is natural that the two Arab leaders, Husayn and Mubarak, focused their attention on the current developments in the peace process. It is also natural that they focused on their joint efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace on all negotiating tracks, including the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, in addition to the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles.

There is no doubt that both Jordan and Egypt—which have always maintained a great deal of mutual understanding, especially on the peace process—are looking forward to a more effective role by the U.S. mediator, who it is feared has lost some of his commitment to achieving tangible progress on all negotiating tracks after the announcement of a Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles.

Based on the above, we hope King Husayn's visits to his brothers President Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will achieve Arab aspirations of an effective and cohesive stand capable of establishing a just and comprehensive peace—a peace that future generations can accept, and whose results can be adhered to and defended.

King Husayn Returns From Cairo Visit 24 Nov

JN2411190393 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1814 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has returned home in God's care. A number of senior civilian and military officials welcomed his majesty.

Al-Majali on King's Cairo Visit, Yemen

JN2511204593 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Interview with Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali by Salim 'Ali Dhiyab, in Amman on 25 November]

[Text] [Al-Majali] His majesty always tries to unite Arabs and to reactivate Arab solidarity. Undoubtedly, Egypt plays a major role in the process of reactivating Arab solidarity. It is the biggest fraternal Arab country, and has made its recognizable contributions in this regard. Relations between his majesty and President Mubarak can play a major role in reactivating Arab solidarity, especially since the region is in a very delicate situation and there is a possibility of establishing regional system. In the absence of Arab solidarity, this system might not be in the interest of this region's peoples and states. We believe that we are all dutybound to forgive each other and to settle differences together so as to confront any possible changes and developments in the region.

[Dhiyab] Will the region witness Egyptian or Jordanian moves at the coming stage?

[Al-Majali] In fact, his majesty and the Jordanian Government always move. We always make initiatives and moves. We will not stop our moves. However, there is nothing you can call scheduled, written, or official. The Egyptians are also making continuous moves in this regard. We beseech God to let us hear about the success of steps in this direction.

[Dhiyab] We ask about Jordan's efforts to contain the problem between brothers in Yemen.

[Al-Majali] You know that the brothers in Yemen, whether his excellency the president or the vice president, greatly appreciate his majesty the king. There has been close contact among them. They believe that his majesty the king is a wise man, and consequently, there is a possibility for healing the rift we hear about in that region. I believe that his majesty the king spares no effort in this regard, first, because this is something important for Arab unity, and second, based on our relations with the brothers in Yemen.

[Dhiyab] Thank you.

King Phones Mubarak After Attempt on Sidqi

JN2511212693 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] His majesty King Husayn held a telephone conversation with his brother Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this evening, during which he expressed his satisfaction with the Egyptian prime minister's escaping an attempt on his life. He also expressed his sorrow over the death of an innocent Egyptian girl during the attempt.

His majesty denounced this attempt and the unjustified violence it entails, which is condemned by all human norms, by our religious principles, and pan-Arab traditions. His majesty wished fraternal Egypt continued security and stability, and progress and prosperity for the fraternal Egyptian people.

Cairo-Amman-Damascus-Baghdad Alliance Promoted

JN2511134493 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 25 Nov 93 pp 1, 10

[Editorial: "The Husayn-Mubarak Meeting"]

[Text] From the early 1950s until the late 1980s, Cairo, Amman, Damascus, and Baghdad formed the frontline for confrontation and the pan-Arab solid wall against which all conspiracies have floundered. The sound of freedom and liberty continued to echo in these capitals, warning of the calamities and dangers of colonialism, until it departed. Jordan, which was and continues to be the revolutionaries' guiding light and the fortress of the free, continued to maintain the principles of the Great Arab Revolt in terms of the unity of the Arabs and their liberation. Jordan never lost hope when one of the capitals was overshadowed with differences and tense relations. King Husayn continued his good efforts in order to mobilize potentials to serve the pan-Arab goals.

Amman, Damascus, Cairo, and Baghdad are partners in confrontation, blood, and suffering. Their armies waged battles of honor and heroism in June and October to liberate Palestine, and the blood of their heroes saturated the four corners of Palestine, the Golan, and Sinai.

King Husayn's meeting with President Mubarak is not an exceptional case. Indeed, it is the meeting of brothers and partners in blood and fate. it is a meeting that seeks the good of the nation at a serious and critical stage that requires the efforts of these capitals which formed the solid wall against colonialist ambitions. Jordan, with its Hashemite leadership, did not for once place Hashemite differences as an obstacle to the unity of the Arab word. it has always been the first to respond to any Arab call.

The Arab nation is currently facing the most serious conspiracy. If Amman, Cairo, and Damascus do not coordinate their stands then the nation will suffer serious losses and great harm. So far, there is no convincing reason for the continuing estrangement or cool relations between Amman and Cairo, between Cairo and Baghdad, and between Baghdad and Damascus.

We welcome the two great leaders' meeting and are optimistic about the results of the meeting, which coordinates stands, reinforces the Arab march, and thwarts the efforts of those waiting to intimidate the Arab nation.

It is historically known that the meeting of Amman, Cairo, and Damascus has great importance because it is the striking Arab power capable of achieving Arab rights. Any division among these capitals will cause great pain and fragmentation to the Arabs.

We hope that King Husayn will continue his good offices' tours—which he began a few days ago with Damascus—and visit the rest of the Arab countries in order to unite the Arab word.

Abu-Nuwar on Cooperation with Palestinians

JN2511122493 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Nov 93 p 25

[By Lima Nabil]

[Text] Information Minister Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwar has stated that Jordan will continue to support the Palestinian cause and the brothers in the PLO whom we hope will soon succeed to carry out the coordination they cannot do without, not only in their interest but also in the interest of the Palestinian cause and the higher Jordanian-Palestinian interests, which cannot be separated regardless of reasons or motives. In an interview with AL-RA'Y, Dr. Abu-Nuwar said: I strongly believe that the more Jordanianian- Palestinian coordination is close, sincere, wise, and alert to all the facts, the more it will serve the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people before anyone else.

Dr. Abu-Nuwar said: When peace negotiations resume, it will be crucial that the Jordanian and Palestinian people have close coordination that ignores or neglects nothing. He affirmed that comprehensive peace and the nonconclusion of separate deals by Jordan or any of the fraternal Arab countries concerned are major constants of the Jordanian Government.

Dr. Abu-Nuwar said that the government wants full and sincere cooperation with both the House of Representatives and the Senate in parliament whose first ordinary session began on Tuesday. He said the House of Representatives faithfully, clearly, and sincerely represents the Jordanian people. He described it as being a new and young enlightened forum that is capable of tackling future challenges.

Dr. Abu-Nuwar denied that his Ministry intends to grant licenses for private television stations, adding that the Ministry has not discussed the idea of establishing private stations.

Dr. Abu-Nuwar said that early in 1994, the Information Ministry will issue the 1994 information strategy. He said that this strategy will be based on the objectives and premises of the 1993 strategy. What will distinguish it is that it will more comprehensively respond to our needs. He added: We will implement what remains of the present strategy.

Dr. Abu-Nuwar said that he asked the directors general of the information departments and bodies to review the 1993 Jordanian information strategy so that we may be ready to issue the new strategy, having benefited from what was attained and what was not attained from the first strategy and so that we may be able to develop media organs and methods.

Dr. Abu-Nuwar said that the Ministry is consulting those concerned, particularly the Press Association before issuing it in its final form.

King Receives Congratulatory Cable From 'Arafat

JN2511131493 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has received a cable from Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, congratulating him on the inauguration of the 12th Jordanian Parliament. In his cable, 'Arafat wished his majesty good health, happiness, and success in leading the Jordanian people on the path of pride, loftiness, and prosperity. He also wished the esteemed Parliament success in expressing the aspirations and ambitions of the Jordanian people.

President 'Arafat expressed deep thanks for the brotherly and continued support by the Government and people of Jordan, under his majesty's brave leadership, for the Palestinian people's cause and their legitimate national struggle to achieve their freedom and independence.

Buwayz Previews Christopher's Tour of Region

NC2511215693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Beirut, 25 Nov (MENA)—Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has expressed his belief that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region early next month will be important for the peace process. He noted that Arab contacts and moves to coordinate and evaluate positions will be initiated after this tour to define the next step in the peace negotiations. In an exclusive statement to MENA, Buwayz stressed that the U.S. Administration now fully realizes that there are practical steps that Israel should take to stimulate the peace process.

Buwayz said that the Lebanese Government has not yet received clear signals about the ideas, proposals, or declaration of intent that Secretary Christopher will bring with him to activate the peace process on the Lebanese and Syrian tracks. He, however, referred to certain speculations based on logical analysis on the nature of Secretary Christopher's new mission in the region.

Buwayz said that certain people believe that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's latest visit to Washington has given shape to certain points regarding the peace talks and that Christopher will carry with him U.S. proposals that Buwayz described as a compromise between the Arab and Israeli proposals.

Buwayz said that the real problem preventing progress in the peace process no longer lies in the U.S. Administration, whose position and conviction have become good and reasonable. He noted that his latest talks in Washington affirmed that the U.S. Administration led by President Bill Clinton believes that there is a need to invigorate the negotiations so that the Gaza-Jericho Agreement will not remain isolated and threatened with collapse.

Buwayz emphasized his country's refusal to enter secret negotiations with Israel, saying that Lebanon participated in the peace negotiations after close study of the Madrid Conference mechanism, which guarantees the rights of the parties. He said: We do not understand at all the use of secret negotiations which would arouse the concern and suspicion of certain people and serve to divide ranks and positions. He pointed out that secret negotiations such as Israel is proposing makes us feel that Israel wants to maneuver with the Arab parties and raise suspicions among them. We believe that this method does not serve the path of a comprehensive and fair peace.

Discussing the possibility of Christopher's visiting Lebanon during his upcoming tour of the region, Buwayz said that we have not yet received the U.S. Secretary's itinerary, but we believe that the Lebanese stand has become clear to the U.S. Administration and no new interpretations are justified . He stressed that the Lebanese position still focuses on two basic issues: The first concerns the need for full Israeli withdrawal behind the internationally- recognized borders in a way that does not infringe on full Lebanese sovereignty in implementation of Security Council Resolution 425. The second is related to solidarity between Lebanon and the other Arab countries directly involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict regarding a comprehensive and fair peace in the region that will return their rights to these countries in accordance with Resolutions 242 and 338, on the basis that Lebanon is a party to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Buwayz pointed out that Lebanon approaches the peace negotiations and the solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of a comprehensive solution and a unity of stands, since this conflict involves common factors that should not be handled unilaterally. These factors include the issue of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon—there are 400,000 refugees in Lebanon—and the other Arab countries in addition to the issue of peace and its concepts.

Responding to a question about U.S. President Clinton's interest in making progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks before the end of the year, Buwayz said: We welcome this U.S. proposal, which is commensurate with its conviction that any progress in the peace negotiations cannot remain slow, because this would reflect negatively on the peace process.

The Lebanese foreign minister expressed the hope that President Clinton will manage to promote this proposal in view of the U.S. role as the sole superpower in the world. This status provides the United States with great influence and makes it shoulder greater responsibilities for achieving a just peace in the region.

Answering a question about the nature of the Israeli media campaign against the peace process before Christopher begins his tour, Buwayz said: If Israel says there are Israelis rejecting the peace process, we also have Arab public opinion that rejects peace. He maintained that Israel's pretexts for delaying the peace process cannot be justified. He pointed out that if Israel wants the Arabs to understand its domestic situation it must also understand the situation of the other Arab sides.

Buwayz stressed that the Israeli Government is requested to adopt positive decisions regardless of the courage required. He said that the Israeli Government, by using a hesitant, contradictory, and negative negotiating manner, is contributing to spreading concern and confusion among the Israeli public. Buwayz said that peace requires historic decisions.

Buwayz Views Obstacles to Peace With Israel

NC2611080793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] In a statement to Lebanon Television, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said the Lebanese Government will not sign a separate peace agreement with Israel while other Arab countries have not regained their rights. He said Israeli maneuvers to divide the Arabs and to conclude unilateral agreements are a big mistake, because peace requires an overall Arab decision. He called for uniting the Arab rank to coordinate acceptable criteria in the negotiations.

Minister Buwayz voiced his hope that the United States will play the role of an honest broker and implement the UN resolutions and international law. He pointed out that Israel is using south Lebanon as a card to pressure not only Lebanon, but also other Arab negotiators. He said that every time Israel attacks the south, it interprets the event differently: Some acts of aggression have security or military interpretation and others have a domestic political interpretation. He said that events in the south do not always express a strategic perspective. Israel still uses south Lebanon as a pretext to peddle its views on the peace process. He said: Israel has maneuvered with the United States since the Madrid conference, noting that Lebanon entered the Madrid conference because it has two problems with Israel: A Lebanese-Israeli problem resulting from the occupation of south Lebanon and western al-Biqa', which Security Council Resolution 425 addressed. If Israel implements this resolution, Lebanon will be ready to shoulder its security responsibilities.

Asked a question, Buwayz replied: We call on Israel to implement Resolution 425. When it does, the Lebanese Government will commit itself to controlling security on the border. Lebanon will enter the peace process when a solution on the other levels is ready. He said: Everyone thinks that in the negotiations, Israel gave us a guarantee to withdraw and that we did not accept because we are waiting for the rest of the Arabs. This is untrue. Israel has not committed itself unequivocally and precisely to withdrawal form the south.

Christopher Expected To Bring 'New Ideas'

JN2411160393 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Nov 93 p 10

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Syria, effectively the last holdout in the two-year-old Middle East peace process, believes that a breakthrough could be achieved in its negotiations with Israel with "new ideas" to be discussed during the visit next month of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, diplomatic sources said Tuesday.

The basic position of the Syrians, according to the sources, is based on their confidence that their demands could be and would be met, given the recent breakthrough in the Palestinian-Israeli track of negotiations and the agreement on an agenda for a peace accord between Jordan and the Jewish state.

An integral part of the Syrian approach is also a demand for unconditional Arab and international aid, they said.

"Syria does not believe in international donors' conferences, regional cooperation, multilateral investments, joint ventures, etc.," said a Western source. "As far as Damascus is concerned all these could wait and materialise in good time. It believes in aid when it is delivered and will not accept anyone breathing down its neck to see what it is going with the assistance."

The source was underlining the long-time Syrian reluctance to allow external scrutiny of its economy; an inevitable course of events if it were to follow the method that the international community adopted in raising funds for Palestinian self-rule under the Sept. 13 agreement signed between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

At the same time, Damascus is also aware of the "delicacy of the situation," said an Arab diplomat. "They know very well that there is an even chance that things could go the other way; the U.S. and Israel as well as others could get exasperated with Syria's political demands and decide that the Syrian-Israeli track could wait."

"Any time Syria finds things tilting towards that direction it will move fast to put things right," said the diplomat. "But then, the question is what are the parameters that guide Syrian thinking, and when will it decide the time is right."

Analysts believe that Syria is fully aware of the wideheld perception that criticism should be levelled at those who have not made progress with Israel rather than those who have moved ahead, like the PLO, which has signed the interim self-rule agreements, and Jordan, which formalised an agenda for a peace treaty with the Jewish state once all issues on the agenda are resolved.

But then, analysts say, the best bet Syria has in this context is an assurance that no Arab party would sign a separate peace treaty with Israel outside the framework of a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

During his visit to Damascus on Sunday, His Majesty King Husayn and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad reaffirmed that no Arab party would sign a peace agreement with Israel before similar accords are reached between the Jewish state and other parties involved in the peace process, official sources said.

In the meantime, if Jordan enters any accord with Israel to address some of its pressing concerns such as the restoration of its water rights, return of Jordanian land and other measures necessary to maintain the momentum of the peace talks that should not be construed as a "peace treaty," officials said.

The Syrians are counting on continued Arab economic and political boycott of Israel as the best card that could be used to induce the Jewish state to make the necessary "concessions" to Damascus, diplomat said.

At the same time, Damascus [must] also "realise that others would not wait eternally for the Syrians to make up their minds and achieve progress with Israel," and hence the Syrians seem to have "new ideas," the diplomat said.

The "new ideas," according to the sources, according to the sources, envision a public Israeli recognition of Syrian sovereignty over the Golan Heights and a partial withdrawal from the strategic plateau to be followed by interim arrangements guaranteed by the United States.

"The most important element for Syrians is an Israeli acceptance that Golan belongs to Syria," said one source. "Syria is willing to consider its options from that take-off point."

The arrangements that are acceptable to Syria include the deployment of American troops in a demilitarised zone on the Golan with a clear timetable for the total departure of all Israeli soldiers from the Heights, the sources said.

"At the same time, Syria is willing to listen to other options and ideas that could be tabled during the Christopher visit as long as those ideas and options are limited to the security aspect alone," said the diplomat.

According to the diplomat, the Syrian argument is that the Israeli-PLO accord shows little Israeli inclination to actually return territory to the Palestinians and as such the first Israeli move in the Syrian context should be to "establish beyond any reasonable doubt that it accepts Syrian sovereignty over the Golan.

"They are arguing that the world would see things falling into their places from the moment Israel is willing to publicly declare it has no claim to the Golan."

Information Minister on Peace Process, Jordan

JN2411174293 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Syrian Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman has praised Jordan's principled position toward the peace process under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn. He said: Jordan's insistence on working to bring about a just, comprehensive and complete peace makes the Arab vision more stable and clear. The Syrian information minister said that coordination and consultation between the two fraternal countries, Jordan and Syria, would bolster the position of all Arab parties involved in the peace process. He pointed out that Syria would not return to the negotiations unless Israel announced its agreement to carry out a total withdrawal.

In this context, Dr. Salman asserted that an Israeli announcement of readiness to carry out a total withdrawal will be followed by a Syrian announcement of the concept of comprehensive, just, and complete peace. The Syrian information minister urged the United States to play the role of a full and neutral partner, a role, which, he said, the United States announced when it noticed attempts by Israel to disavow its responsibilities and commitment to the term of reference of the peace process and the Madrid breakthrough.

Regarding U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's upcoming tour, Dr. Salman said: Christopher has informed Syria that he has ideas about the resumption of the peace process, and we are awaiting the outcome of his tour of the region, which is expected to take place during the first week of next month.

Denies 'Secret Channels' With Israel

JN2511120493 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Nov 93 pp 24, 21

[Report by 'Isam Qadamani]

[Text] Damascus—Syria has stressed that it will not negotiate a sharing of territory with Israel or any other party. One week before the U.S. secretary of state arrives in Damascus on a visit, a senior Syrian official stressed that peace for Syria means full withdrawal from the occupied territories. Furthermore, Syria categorically denied secret channels of contacts with Israel, saying any negotiations outside the framework of the Madrid Conference mean a departure from the UN resolutions, and will, consequently, absolve the United States of its role as a guarantor for this process as stipulated in the U.S. letters of assurances sent to the Arab states participating in the talks.

Information Minister Muhammad Salman told Jordanian journalists in Damascus that a substantive and firm understanding and coordination on this position was agreed upon between Jordan and Syria, noting the visit His Majesty King Husayn made recently to Syria and the important talks held by the two sides under His Majesty King Husayn and President Hafiz al-Asad.

Salman said Jordanian-Syrian coordination in this regard continues on all levels. He said the continuation of this coordination is important and necessary. He noted that this coordination will bring the positions of the two countries closer to each other and will also make their position firmer and clearer in the future.

He said that Syria has not asked Jordan to stop negotiations with Israel at present, but, in the end he said, the two fraternal countries agree that the signing should be made within the context of the comprehensive and just peace only. However, he said, progress on one track can be made faster than the others, but what is important is the final shape of these tracks.

He stressed that the Jordanian-Syrian solidarity and coordination will strengthen the positions of the two countries, and will also help strengthen the Lebanese position. He said Arab coordination in general will help strengthen us all.

He said Syria will not return to the negotiating table except when indications on and the bases of the future of these talks are known. He noted that Syria will discuss the concept of the comprehensive and just peace after Israel announces that it agrees to complete withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights.

He said that Syria does not yet know the ideas which the U.S. secretary of state will carry with him to the region. What was revealed thus far, he said, is that the secretary has firm ideas to resume the peace process.

The Syrian minister said Israel is seeking to reach separate solutions that would enable it to reap more gains. He said Israel thinks these solution—as well as the secret channels which it seeks to open—will enable it to break free from commitment to the terms of reference and the UN resolutions, which were stressed in the Madrid Conference

He said Israel is seeking to spread suspicion among the Arab parties involved in the peace talks through the deceptive statements made by its officials.

The Syrian official urged the United States to exercise its role as a full, fair, and impartial partner, a role which it declared after it observed that Israel is trying to procrastinate matters and escape commitment to the UN resolutions.

Asked about the water problem and Turkey's repeated accusations against Damascus, the Syrian information minister denied that Syria has any interest in shaking the political or social stability in Turkey or any other country. He said Syria is trying to resolve its problem with Turkey, a neighboring state, within the framework of a logical dialogue.

Salman noted that the problems of water, environment, security, and other issues are directly linked to the peace process, warning that Israel is seeking to make more gains in these fields. He said Israel knows how to take advantage of the problems between any Middle Eastern states. Israel, he said, is trying to dominate Arab resources and control the Gulf oil. It also seeks to enter the Gulf region as a partner through peace links and other projects.

Denies Jamming Jordan TV

JN2511094693 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Nov 93 pp 20, 16

[Text] Damascus—Syrian Minister of Information Muhammad Salman has denied that the Ministry of Information intentionally jams Jordan Television channels in order to prevent clear reception for the Syrian public and visitors who wish to watch its programs in Damascus.

Responding to a question by SAWT AL-SHA'B in this regard, Salman said: Jordan Television is seen with clear reception throughout the Damascus suburbs, the countryside, and all other governorates that are covered by its transmissions. Moreover, if we had any intention of jamming it, we would not allow it to be received in the first place.

As for Damascus city center, and particularly the suburbs facing Qasiyun mountain, we have a transmission station rather than a jamming station. This station covers these suburbs from Damascus itself because Syrian Television was not clearly received in these areas. Even al-Muhajirin Palace was affected. This is caused by the relay station built by Jordan Television in 'Ajlun as well as the Saudi Television transmitter.

Salman added there is no political decision that bans Jordanian newspapers from entering Syria.

Israel Trying To Cement Occupation, Judaize Jerusalem

JN2611155593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1235 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The Gaza Strip yesterday turned into a real battleground between Palestinian citizens and Israeli occupation forces. During these confrontations, one Arab citizen was martyred and more than 37 were injured. Observers agreed that the bloody incidents in Gaza are a new turning point in the Palestinian people's struggle and an escalation of the intifadah. Palestinian citizens, through the criminal practices by occupation forces, have discovered that Israeli intentions for the Oslo agreement are aimed at reorganizing the process of occupation and Judaization and totally destroying the Palestinians' resistance and intifadah—the dynamic courageous intifadah that was launched from the Gaza Strip and spread throughout the West Bank and Arab Jerusalem.

Since the signing of the Oslo agreement, which Israel considered a historic agreement, the occupation forces have escalated their criminal practices in the occupied Arab territories and stepped up their pursuit of Palestinian strugglers under the pretext of liquidating those who oppose peace. They made it a condition for the Palestinian side that signed the agreement to present an official apology for the death of any Israeli settler and to condemn acts by the Palestinian resistance. Meanwhile, the settlers and Israeli Army forces are wreaking havoc in the occupied territories, raiding Arab villages, districts, and houses, and killing scores of citizens, destroying property, and starting fires. Of course, the leaders of Israel did not denounce the settlers' barbaric acts. Yitzhaq Rabin and other officials made statements indicating that they understand those settlers' behavior. The leaders of Israel intentionally turned the situation upside down. According to them, the legitimate Palestinian resistance against the occupation is a terrorist act while acts by the settlers are justified. In other words, the Palestinians do not have a right to the land of their fathers and grandfathers, while the Zionists have full rights to build settlements in and own any part of Palestine.

Yesterday, Israel radio cited Police Minister Moshe Shahal as saying that Rabin's Government will not be bound by the Oslo agreement if the Palestinian side, the cosigner of the agreement, could not impose its control in the occupied territories. This is an exposed call on the cosigners of the agreement to open fire on the Palestinian people and practically take part in serving the occupation and its schemes. Other Israeli officials did not hide the fact that they are looking forward to Palestinian participation with the Israeli Army in suppressing the intifadah under the pretext of confronting the enemies of peace. But where is that claimed peace? Rabin yesterday said that the Israeli Army will not withdraw from the Gaza Strip as scheduled; that is, on 13 December, because an understanding has not yet been reached with the Palestinian negotiating side. The representative of the Palestinian side said that Israel insists on keeping a large contingent at a crossroads and strategic centers and continuing settlement activities and that it refuses to release the detainees. This is a simpler way of saying that the occupation is continuing and that the agreement did not meet any of the Palestinians' aspirations.

The incidents in Gaza and the occupied territories and Israel's evasion of the requirements of the peace process and its efforts to consecrate the occupation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank and to Judaize all of Jerusalem reveals that the rulers of Tel Aviv are not serious and are relentlessly seeking to foil the principles of the Madrid conference. These principles stipulated the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The Madrid process, which was continued in Washington, has almost been put to a halt. Moreover, the Gaza-Jericho agreement is in a real predicament. The Palestinian people exposed the intrigue and are now confronting it courageously.

The cosponsor of the Madrid conference has no choice but to return to the facts and requirements of a just and comprehensive peace; that is, a full Israeli withdrawal and recognition of the Palestinian rights in implementation of UN Security Council resolutions if a real comprehensive peace is to prevail in the region.

French Statement on Peace Applauded

JN2511165193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1238 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: France's announcement yesterday—through its Foreign Minister Alain Juppe—that Israel's pledge to withdraw from the occupied Arab territory will give momentum to the peace process merits appreciation and respect. This announcement was a bit of truth amid the clamor of Israeli falsehoods aimed at concealing this fact. The French official's statement clarified the French stand not only on methods to reinforce the peace process, but also on the causes that prevented any progress in this process in the past. The timing of this statement is also important. The statement refutes the Israeli campaign of distortion launched throughout the world in an attempt to reinterpret the facts and to hold the Arabs responsible for not advancing toward peace by casting doubts on Arab seriousness.

Juppe said that all the Arab leaders with whom he met during his recent tour of the Middle East are interested in continuing the peace process. This proves Israel's failure to mislead world public opinion regarding the sincerity of Arab intentions to achieve peace. It also undermines the basis of Israeli logic, which asks the Arabs to pay the price of peace without making any commitment to withdraw from their occupied territory. Furthermore, we say that the French announcement implicitly holds Israel responsible for any attempt to obstruct the peace talks in the future if it does not make a clear pledge to withdraw from the occupied territory.

We believe that this sound and brave French stand must be followed by all international parties that are concerned about the future of peace in this region. This is because underscoring facts in such a manner will contribute to promoting the peace issue. However, appeasing Israel and conceding to its blackmail will encourage it to place more and more obstacles in the path of peace and to evade its requirements. We do not know if Juppe's reported urging to Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres—in a telephone contact—to advance toward peace through a commitment to withdraw from the occupied territory will draw any reaction in the Israeli stand, which has been obstructing any progress.

We truly hope that this stand, which Juppe reportedly communicated to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who will visit the Middle East within days, will affect the proposals and ideas that the U.S. official will bring with him in order to activate and reinforce the peace process. There is no doubt that the adoption of such a stand by Secretary Christopher, and his emphasis that Israel should pledge to withdraw from the occupied Arab territory, will facilitate his mission and will pave the road for promoting the peace process on the path of a just and comprehensive peace. We also believe that the French minister's statement not only expresses France's view, but also mirrors a European conviction that is imposing itself strongly on the ground. Such a conviction responds to the real requirements of a just and comprehensive peace and to the Arab demands that must be taken into consideration if such a peace is to materialize.

Those who honestly seek to reach such a peace should proceed from this conviction, which was expressed by France in its own name and on behalf of all Europe, as we believe.

Papers Criticize Israel

JN2511091593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Before It Is Too Late" AL-THAWRAH says: Israel has not concealed its interest in reaping the fruits of the Gaza-Jericho agreement. Israel has tried to portray this agreement as the long-awaited objective of the peace process. Israel also thought it could make the Arabs pay for the agreement by attempting to depict it as a nucleus for a regional economic system. Israel says it does not want this system to be under its hegemony and subject to its central role, which will be strengthened step by step and deal by deal, given the chance to do so. In the meantime, it pleads with the United States to exercise some political and military extortion. It raises security pretexts, not only to maintain Israeli occupation of Arab territories but also to embark on a new qualitative armament drive under the pretext of the security threats posed by peace, as Israel puts it, and the pretexts of risks of withdrawals dictated by peace.

The paper adds: Despite these pretexts, Israel, more than any other party, understands that territory cannot ensure security, that occupation cannot impose peace, and that armament drives cannot guarantee constant superiority.

The paper adds: What is strange in the suspect Israeli logic is the fact that Israel is building its military arsenal and trying to achieve superiority over all the Arabs. This means that comprehensive peace is not in Israel's dictionary, unless it means subjugating the Arabs through separate and partial deals that would, practically, facilitate this subjugation process.

The paper wonders: How can anyone explain the continued showering of Israel with weapons, even under the pretext of encouraging it to take positive initiatives toward the peace process?

The paper adds: Does he who wants to show a positive attitude toward the peace process search for weapons or for the power of international legitimacy, its laws, resolutions, and guarantees of the peace process?

The paper answers: Showering Israel with weapons will only strengthen its intransigence and policies, which oppose the just and comprehensive peace?

Based on the above, the paper concludes, Israel wishes to impose its military hegemony on the region, as well as its economic hegemony. This means that Israel wants peace to help it establish its control over the entire Arab arena.

Concluding its commentary, the paper says: The Arabs must be aware of the threats of this phase. They must act quickly to avert collapses in their arena before it is too late.

Under the headline "Logic of Ceaseless Terrorism," AL-BA'TH says in an editorial: The terrorist logic of the ruling Israeli mentality has become an official, firm course in its dealing with others. The physical liquidation campaigns are supervised by the prime minister himself, and are carried out against strugglers in any country. This means that the hands of Israeli terrorism are reaching any sovereign state to infringe on its security and the security of its people.

The paper adds: The history of the region also reveals that the Israeli rulers were the first to introduce all kinds of terrorism to the Middle East. They were behind the assassination of UN mediator Count Bernadotte. They committed the massacres of Dayr Yasin and Qibyah and other massacres in the occupied territories and in Sabra and Shatila. They also introduced plane hijacking. They are practicing terrorism on a large scale and under the supervision of their highest government levels.

The paper adds that the terroristic trend, which is deeply rooted in the ruling Israeli mentality, is continuing and has not subsided despite Rabin Government's peace pretenses.

The paper notes that the most serious threat to the achievement of a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East is the logic of terrorism, which has turned into an official and systematic course by the Israeli rulers. They threaten and terrorize others with it, damage peace efforts, and dwarf the peace process by turning it into incomplete deals and secret, suspect agreements.

The paper adds: This method will not bring peace, stability, or security.

AL-BA'TH concludes its editorial by saying: The only solution that can survive in the Middle East is the solution that is based on justice and comprehensiveness and that would give each party its rights. We in Syria believe this is the way from which we will never deviate, regardless of the pressures and circumstances.

Al-Zu'bi Phones Egypt's Sidqi, Condemns Murder Bid

JN2511215293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi this evening called Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi to congratulate him on escaping the criminal, treacherous attempt on his life. He wished him good health and the brotherly people of Egypt continued progress and advancement.

Afghanistan

Cease-Fire Signed by Mas'ud-Hekmatyar Forces

LD2411180793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] After a month of fighting east of Kabul between forces loyal to former Defense Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar, a cease-fire was signed between the two sides today.

[Arsalan] Rahmani, deputy prime minister of Afghanistan, announced this news, adding: The cease-fire agreement was prepared and endorsed during a two-hour meeting at the presidential palace this morning, in the presence of President Borhannoddin Rabbani, representatives of Hekmatyar and Shah Mas'ud, and members of the government. He said that the cease-fire was a general one and will first begin in the war zone of Tagab.

Jehadi Commanders Agree on Qandahar Peace Plan

LD2511172093 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Commanders of jehadi organizations recently agreed on a peace plan which is due to be implemented very soon through the evacuation of Qandahar city by armed forces. This point was made yesterday evening in a report by the BBC, which added that commanders of jehadi organizations in Qandahar, after reaching the agreement, discussed new things in this regard and expressed optimism about the implementation of the plan.

The plan which has been initiated by esteemed Gol Aqa Sherzay, governor of Qandahar, has been signed by ten commanders from various organizations, 21 non-party neutral ulema, other religious leaders, elders and intellectuals, who have been introduced to become members of a commission whose task is to form the Jehadi Council of this province.

Esteemed Mola Naqib Akhondzada [pro-Rabbani commander], the commander of Qandahar's military corps, has said that all people of Afghanistan hope for peace and security in the country. The wars that have been waged previously in Qandahar Province were because of the selfishness of [Golboddin] Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami, he said. It was Hekmatyar who embarked on such wars for power in Kabul before this.

Fighting Continues Despite Cease-Fire

BK2511112093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1106 GMT 25 Nov 93

[By Terence White]

[Text] Kabul, Nov 25 (AFP)—Mojahedin factions loyal to the presidency and the prime minister continued fighting Thursday despite assurances by high-level Afghan authorities that a ceasefire would be implemented, a Hezb spokesman said.

"Verbally both sides agreed yesterday to a ceasefire but nevertheless fighting is still going on," a spokesman said on behalf of Qazi Amin Waqat, the Hezb deputy leader.

The two factions, one loyal to President Borhanoddin Rabbani, the other to Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar, were fighting east of the capital near Tagab, with both sides accusing the other of not accepting its ceasefire proposals.

Despite Wednesday's declaration by Deputy Prime Minister Mowlawi Arsala Rahmani, a ceasefire agreement between Rabbani's defence ministry forces and Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami was not announced on Kabul Radio that night.

The Hezb spokesman said fighting was continuing in Nejrab, a district centre about 15 kilometres (about 10 miles) north of the disputed Tagab bazaar, while a Defence Ministry spokesman contradicted this by claiming Tagab was in their hands.

The Defence Ministry official said no ceasefire would be accepted without three conditions.

They included a Hezb evacuation of military forces from its supply bases to the rear of Tagab at the Naghlu hydroelectric dam and neighbouring Sarobi town, a return to the original frontlines at the outset of the four-week battle and opening the eastern national highway from Kabul to the Pakistan border.

Rahmani also said Wednesday that agreement had been reached on the resupply of electricity from Naghlu and Sarobi dams to Kabul, but as yet no practical breakthrough had been achieved.

"We sent a big delegation to Naghlu dam today in order to negotiate with Hezb field commanders about the restoration of electricity," the Minister of Power and Water said Thursday.

He said there were no technical obstacles to overcome, but power had not yet been restored to the capital.

A Hezb spokesman said restoration of Kabul's power was conditional on a signed promise that jet fighters would stop their aerial bombardment of Sarobi.

He said the promise must be made by Rabbani's military strongman, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, who despite his resignation as defence minister, still controls the forces of the state engaged against Hezb-e Eslami at Tagab.

However Presidential spokesman 'Abdol Aziz Morad rejected this outright.

"We are not ready to sign such a promise because this would prove we have actually bombed Sarobi and Naghlu while this is not the case," Morad said.

He counter-proposed that when Hekmatyar "stops his attacks against us" the war will stop automatically.

The lack of electricity and the continued fighting have not only demoralised the citizens of Kabul but sent the price of winter wood and heating fuels rising, as have essential foodstuffs that arrive by truck convops forced to pay extortionate bribes to highway gangs controlling all main roads to Pakistan.

Hezb-e Claims Air Force Bombing Eastern Areas

BK2511142693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1412 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Nov 25 (AFP)—Government warplanes controlled by former defence minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud on Thursday carried out bombing raids on an east Afghan city held by premier Golboddin Hekmatyar, Hekmatyar's faction said.

Mangal Hussein, representative of Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami group in Islamabad, said warplanes bombed Mehtar Lam, capital of the eastern province of Laghman, as well as local villages.

He called on the Pakistani Foreign Ministry to cut off supplies of fuel to the government's air force. He said the Pakistani Government had replied positively although the Foreign Ministry refused to confirm or deny this.

No independent confirmation was immediately available of the reported attack.

The Hezb say it is the second air raid on civilian areas since bloody combat first erupted four weeks ago around the key town of Tagab, 60 kilometers (38 miles) northeast of Kabul.

Mangal Hussein said the first raid, on the town of Sarobi east of Kabul, which is held by the Hezb, comprised napalm, leaving around 100 dead and destroying mosques and surrounding villages.

The Defence Minstry denies any attack on Sarobi, although travellers who have been in the area have confirmed it in Kabul.

Analysts said that if the raid on Laghman, a province that is predominantly ethnic Pashtun, is confirmed, it would amount to a major extension of the conflict between Hezb and Mas'ud.

So far, fighting, since the start of the month, has been largely limited to Kabul's province. [passage omitted]

Dostam Denies Seizure of Iranian Aircraft

LD2411144093 Tehran IRNA in English 1414 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 24, IRNA—Leader of Afghanistan National Islamic Movement, 'Abdol Rashid Dostam in an interview with British state radio on Tuesday denied that his forces had seized an Iranian aircraft.

He said the aircraft was carrying medicine from Tehran as humanitarian relief aid and it was not carrying arms.

The London-based Saudi paper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT had claimed that an Iranian military plane carrying arms to Afghan parties had been forced to land at Mazar-e Sharif airport by Dostam's militias and returned to Tehran after unloading its cargo.

An expert told IRNA that the Saudi paper always spread rumors in line with the interests of the West and mounted baseless allegations against Iran in order to strain Tehran's relations with neighboring countries.

He said that AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has already fabricated other stories later rejected by responsible Iranian officials including the alleged assistance of Iran to Turkish kurds and sending military supplies to General Aidid of Somalia.

Sudan Ready To Help Kabul Revive Water, Power

LD2311182193 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Nov 93

[Text] The Republic of Sudan is ready to help the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan [as heard] in the revival of water and power establishments. Esteemed Engineer Mohammad Ayub, the minister of water and power, discussed this matter today with the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Sudan in Kabul.

Al-Turabi Mediation To Continue at Khartoum Forum

PM2411143493 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 22 Nov 93 p1, 4

[Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan and Ra'fat Yahya report: "Failure of al-Turabi's Mediation Between Afghan Leaders"]

[Text] Islamabad—Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the Arab and Islamic People's Congress, has failed to promote a solution to the Afghan problem through mediation between Afghan leaders during his two-day visit to Kabul, but he has mentioned a formula for tackling the crisis, to be finalized when he meets with the Afghan leaders in Khartoum early next month.

At a press conference he held in Islamabad yesterday, al-Turabi, commenting on the situation in Egypt, condemned "all forms and kinds of terrorism" as well as "the use of force." He emphasized that "there is no dispute between Egypt and Sudan." He attributed the border problems between the two countries to "attempts by British colonialists to sow differences between the Arab and Islamic states."

The figures al-Turabi met with in Afghanistan included President Borhanoddin Rabbani, Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar, Islamic Union Leader Professor 'Abdol Rasul Sayyaf, former Defense Minister General Mas'ud Shah, and 'Abdol 'Ali Mazari, leader of the pro-Tehran Shiite Unity Party.

Al-Turabi confirmed that the Afghan leaders agreed to attend the second conference of the "People's Congress" scheduled for 2-3 November in Khartoum. He spoke of a formula for tackling the situation under which Rabbani and Hekmatyar would keep their posts. According to informed Afghan sources, al-Turabi's talks underscored the need to reactivate the present government, the Islamabad agreement, and the Mecca charter. At his press conference, al-Turabi said that the past agreement was "still valid and has not been canceled."

He attributed the current crisis in Afghanistan to "the absence of appropriate mechanisms for the implementation of decisions made" in accordance with the agreement. He said that he started his efforts with the Afghan leaders some time ago when the Soviet forces were still in Afghanistan and that he met with Soviet officials at the time to discuss the Afghan problem.

Al-Turabi, who spent two days in Kabul, said he hoped that his meetings with the Afghan leaders would lead to a cease-fire between the various factions. He pointed out that "all revolutions need a transitional period to promote stability in the country. That was the case with the French, Russian, and other revolutions." He said furthermore that the Afghan situation has its own characteristics "as it lacks trained manpower and technical expertise, a matter which further complicates the problems."

Al-Turabi said that he will continue his mediation efforts during the Khartoum conference and "I might return individually or with a delegation to Afghanistan to complete the draft solution."

On the "Afghan Arabs," al-Turabi said that "most of them were trained in the West and had the respect of the West during the Afghan-Soviet war. They were called mojahedin. That has now changed and they are now called terrorists."

UN Urges Delivery of Foodstuffs to Kabul

LD2311195693 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Nov 93

[Text] A representative of the United Nations has asked for joint efforts with relevant Afghan organizations in transporting foodstuffs and fuel to Kabul. At a meeting between Mr. [word indistinct], the UN representative in foodstuff affairs, and the esteemed minister of transportation, the UN representative asked the Ministry of Transport of the Islamic State of Afghanistan to take immediate steps toward delivering foodstuffs and fuel to Kabul.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Transport told a BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] correspondent that a quantity of foodstuffs and fuel, which have arrived in Jalalabad from Pakistan for delivery to Kabul, have remained there [in Jalalabad] because of the Kabul-Jalalabad highway closure.

Bangladesh

Prime Minister Back From 'Successful' Nepal Visit

BK2411152393 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister Khaleda Zia returned to Dhaka this evening after a three-day official visit to Nepal. She had gone to Kathmandu at the invitation of the Nepalese prime minister, Girija Prasad Koirala. Talking to newsmen at the airport, the prime minister described her visit to Nepal as successful. A joint communique was issued in Dhaka and Kathmandu today after the conclusion of the visit by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to Nepal. This communique was signed by the Bangladesh foreign secretary, Reaz Rahman, and his Nepalese counterpart, (Jadav Kant Sherwal), on behalf of their respective governments. The prime ministers of the two countries were present during the signing ceremony of the joint communique.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia had an aerial view of the Himalayas from a special Royal Nepal Airlines plane this morning. She flew over the Himalayas for over an hour. Later, the prime minister visited places of historical and cultural significance in Nepal's (Bhaktapur). There she had a tour of the National Art Gallery and other important places.

Joint Communique Issued

BK2511072793 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Bangladesh and Nepal have reiterated the need for diversifying trade, promoting cooperation in the fields of industry, agriculture, and rural development between the two countries. This was contained in a joint communique issued simultaneously from Dhaka and Kathmandu yesterday at the end of the three-day official visit of Bangladesh Prime Minister and SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia to Nepal at the invitation of Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasada Koirala. The communique said the two prime ministers expressed the need for strengthening the friendly relations between the two countries. They reiterated their firm belief that as a forum of enhancing regional cooperation in South Asia, SAARC represents the hopes and aspirations of the people of the region. They underscored the need for focusing on core economic issues, including that of poverty alleviation. The two prime ministers agreed that the peoples of the region should be provided with the basic needs through the provision of dal-bhat [food] to every South Asian household. During Begum Zia's visit to Nepal, both sides discussed the issue of water resources and were of the view that there existed a vast potential which could be harnessed for the benefit of the people of the region. The communique said that both sides reiterated the need to explore the possibilities of cooperation in the field of industry. It was further agreed that encouragement should be given to the private sectors in setting up industries. The two leaders hoped for the timely conclusion of the Uruguay Round of trade talks and the protection therein in the interest of LDC's [Least Developed Countries]. They also emphasized the need for G-77 to supplement the efforts of the Non-aligned Movement in the economic arena. The two prime ministers noted with satisfaction that the conclusion of the SAPTA [South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement] at the seventh SAARC summit in Dhaka marks a watershed in the purpose of positive and progressive graduation of the SAARC movement by initiating the first crucial steps of trade with liberlization among the member countries.

The two leaders welcomed the recent accord between the Palestine and Israel and hoped that this crucial first step will lead to permanent resolution of the Palestinian problem. The prime ministers of Bangladesh and Nepal, the communique said, expressed their happiness in the establishment of democratic governments in both the countries and hoped that democracy would take firm roots and its values [words indistinct] and developed.

The communique said the prime minister of Bangladesh extended an invitation to the prime minister of Nepal to visit Bangladesh at his convenience and the Nepalese prime minister accepted the invitation.

'Most' Awami League Legislators Tender Resignations

BK2611072693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0646 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 26 (AFP)—Most members of the opposition Awami League have tendered their resignations to party leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed as Bangladesh's parliamentary crisis deepened Friday, it was reported.

Wajed has already threatened to resign after parliament ruled that remarks she made critical of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and her cabinet were not privileged. Her party wants the ruling reversed.

The pro-goverment daily Telegraph newspaper said most of the 92 Awami League lawmakers had submitted their resignations Thursday.

Party leaders were not available for comment Friday but its working committee was reported to have given instructions that all MPs should return to their respective constituencies to start election preparations "if the government continued to violate parliamentary norms."

Wajed's remarks, made outside parliament, were in response to comments by Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia that the house had become a place of "lies, false and misleading statements."

Wajed clarified her remarks to parliament later and said she would resign if her explanation was not accepted.

Both the Telegraph and the Financial Express, also said to be close to the government, quoted ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party leaders as saying the party would call snap elections rather than bow to opposition demands.

But the weekly Holiday newspaper said: "It will be premature and also impolitic to sing requeim for the Fifth Parliament."

Editorial Depicts Depressed Industrial Climate

BK2511130393 Dhaka DAINIK ITTEFAQ in Bengali 19 Nov 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Over 4,500 Industrial Units Closed Down"]

[Text] At present, the total number of mills and factories which have been closed down in the country is estimated to be around 4,500. A newspaper report said that these industrial units were closed during the period extending from 1972 to 1993. It is unfortunate that till now no effective step has been taken to reopen these mills and factories. At times, certain initiatives were taken in this regard, but these were never implemented. It is a matter of grave concern that this is the industrial scenario in a poverty- ridden country like Bangladesh where several hundred thousand people are unemployed. In this country, 25,000 to 30,000 people join the labor force every year. Though Bangladesh is primarily an agricultural country it is not possible to absorb the vast manpower in this sector. On the other hand, if modern methods of farming are introduced a large segment of the labor force engaged in this sector will become jobless. Under these circumstances, rapid industrialization of the country is the only way to solve the unemployment problem. Though we realize this fact, unfortunately the pace of industrial development is very slow in the country. It may be mentioned that a majority of these 4,500 industrial units which have been closed down belong to the private sector. Now the question arises: why did the private entrepreneurs after taking all the trouble for setting up these industries later decided to close them down?

It is true that a large portion of the capital needed for the setting up of industries comes from bank loans. However, it is not easy to secure loans. Prior to applying for bank loans the investors have to make security deposits and have to partially bear the cost of investment from their own resources. Besides, it is very difficult to obtain permission for setting up industries due to bureaucratic complexities. This shows that an investor has to face a lot of hardships and take financial risks for the setting up of an industry. Their main motive behind the setting up of an industry is to earn profit; however, if the industrial units incur regular losses the mill owners have no other alternative but to close down their units. Now it needs to be asked why the industrial units are incurring losses despite the low wages of industrial workers in this country. For this, several factors are responsible. These include the unstable industrial policy of the government, giving more priority to the trade sector than the industrial sector in the budget; excessive control by bureaucrats and financial institutions; anarchy in the transport sector; frequent power failures; rampant smuggling; labor unrest; and a low productivity rate. Apart form these factors there is also the menace posed by toll raisers or extortionists.

However, the main factor which is obstructing the smooth management of the industrial sector is the use of labor unions for political purposes. The trade unions in the industrial units have links with different political parties. Due to political differences among them, violence and clashes frequently erupt in the industrial units. This reduces the productivity of the workers and affects the mills and factories. As a result profitable units are converted into losing concerns. A section of labor leaders under the patronization of their parent political parties often create an atmosphere which is not conducive to the smooth functioning of the industrial units. This is taking place in both the public and the private sector industrial enterprises. Unless this trend is stopped, the closed industrial units are not likely to be commissioned nor are prospects for the rapid industrialization of the country bright.

India

Secretary-Level Talks on Kashmir To Resume

BK2411074493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] India and Pakistan are to resume bilateral talks at foreign secretary level in accordance with the Simla Agreement. The foreign secretary, Mr. J.N. Dixit, will visit Islamabad at the invitation of his Pakistani counterpart, Mr. Shaharyar Khan, from the first of January next year. According to a joint statement released in New Delhi today, the three-day talks will cover comprehensive discussions on bilateral matters, including all aspects of Kashmir issue.

Commentary Hopes for Resolution

BK2511053993 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Commentary by O.P. Sabherwal]

[Text] Yesterday's joint statement announcing the resumption of foreign secretary-level talks between India and Pakistan after a gap of 16 months and the reference that the talks are going to be held in accordance with the Simla agreeement is of considerable significance for bilateral relations between the two countries. According to the statement, the talks will cover all dimensions of the Kashmir issue besides other bilateral matters.

In recent statements on Kashmir, Pakistani leaders and spokesmen have glossed over the Simla agreement and hopped on the UN Resolutions on Kashmir. Now, by accepting that the discussions should be held bilaterally as envisaged under the Simla agreement, India's contention that the only parties involved in the dispute are India and Pakistan has been reestablished. This amounts to recognition of the fact, particularly by Pakistan, that the ground realities have to be taken into account, if Indo-Pak relations are to improve. The peaceful resolution of the Hazratbal crisis over which Islamabad raised a hue and cry seems to have convinced Pakistan that India means business and will brook no interference in its internal affairs. The relations between the two countries had reached a new low in recent months because of Islamabad's continued support to terrorism in Kashmir. But it now appears that the realization has finally dawned on Pakistan that its policy of interference and destabilization aimed against India is unlikely to bring about a solution to the Kashmir issue regardless of external pressures. The Pakistani prime minister has reportedly been advised by many countries that it is unrealistic to expect an instant solution to the Kashmir issue and that the two countries should enter into a serious dialogue to resolve it peacefully. This becomes all the more apparent in view of the Pakistani decision to drop its plan to raise the Kashmir issue at the United Nations after it failed to muster the necessary support. That India has always been interested in peaceful resolution of all outstanding issues and improvement of bilateral ties was never in doubt.

Political upheavals in the absense of a stable government in Pakistan had put bilateral talks on the back burner. Immediately after Ms. Benazir Bhutto assumed office, the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao proposed a comprehensive dialogue on all issues, including kashmir. At the sixth round of talks in August last year in New Delhi, the foreign secretaries had exchanged instruments of ratification of the agreement on prevention of air space violations by military aircraft. But many other issues like the Tulbul Navigation Project and Siachen are yet to be settled. One hopes the next round of talks prepare the ground for comprehensive resolution of all these issues and a summit level talks. After all, stability in the region is of paramount interest for both the countries [for] development and progress.

Pakistani Policy Change on UN Resolution Viewed

BK2611075193 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Jamunadas Akhtar commentary]

[Text] Pakistan has finally decided not to move a resolution at the United Nations Committee, calling for a fact-finding mission to be sent to Kashmir. It seems to have guessed that despite the well-planned propaganda, it will not be able to muster enough support to get the proposed resolution passed. Even members of the Islamic Conference Organization were not prepared to support Pakistan's allegations against India. India's success in defusing the Hazratbal crisis without any violence confrontation has convinced the international public opinion that India firmly believes in settling disputes by peaceful negotiations.

Time and again, the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, has expressed his keen desire to resolve bilateral issues with Pakistan on the basis of Simla Agreement. He has also made it clear that to prepare the necessary climate, Pakistan should stop terrorist activities in the Kashmir valley. Proxy war cannot hamper India's commitment to defend her integrity and stop her from performing the obligation to protect the law-abiding and peace-loving people of the valley.

False accusations of violation of human rights cannot deceive the world. The state of Jammu and Kashmir enjoys autonomy and people have the right to choose their government by exercising their democratic rights. They have the freedom to express opinion on each and every subject. On the other hand, the Constitution of Pakistan- held Kashmir has deprived the people from exercising similar democratic rights. For example, it is punishable offense to oppose the state's accession to Pakistan. No woman can become the prime minister or president of Pak-occupied Kashmir. People of Gillgit, Baltistan, and other northern areas do not have even the right to vote. There is no legislature, judiciary, college, university, or a factory in these areas. The Government of Pakistan has refused to comply with the order of Muzaffarabad High Court that the administration of these areas should be restored to Sardar Abdul Qayyum's government. At present, Army is in occupation of these areas. Shia-Sunni rights are frequently fomented. Hundreds of people have lost their lives. A large number of them have been arrested and tortured. Mosques and imambaras [places where Muharram festival activities are held] are frequently raided and desecrated by Pakistani Army to arrest the alleged rebels. Pakistan has been told by international community to comprehend the ground realities and instead of trying to disturb the existing arrangements vis-a-vis the Line Of Control, should set its own house in order.

U.S. Stance on Jammu-Kashmir Criticized

BK2611104793 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 19 Nov 93 p 13

[By Bhaskar E. Avhad]

[Text] The recent statements made by Ms. Robin Raphel, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia, stating that the U.S. considers the Kashmir issue to be a subsisting dispute must be looked at in the context of the U.S. behaviour in past and in the perspective of its future consequences.

On October 26 1947, Maharaja Hari Singh of Jammu & Kashmir [J & K] had signed with India a treaty of accession and since then at each stage it had been by constitutional methods that Kashmir had become part and parcel of Indian territory. It is in this background that the wanton wrong of committing aggression over Jammu & Kashmir territory by Pakistan in 1947-48 had been put before the UNO. The real dispute taken to UNO was the wrong committed by Pakistan and India's demand for vacation of the occupied portion. Legitimately, the UNO ought to have decided the issue there and then. However, it was that strategy of the USA to promote this illegitimate attitude of Pakistan and perpetuate the ceasefire. Till now it was the Indian grievance that the wrong done to her should be remedied, and it was the calculated policy of the USA to oppose the Indian position.

India would not have been a petitioner at the UN had it no title to the territory of J & K. The moot question of law would be to ask how Pakistan could have any locus standi to challenge the legality or other wise of the Instrument of Accession. So far as the USA is concerned it cannot legally challenge the sovereignty of India over J & K as its representative at the UN, Mr. Warren Austin, had stated to the Security Council on Feb. 4, 1948, that the sovereignty of J & K had gone to India. Right from the beginning the aggression on J & K territory by Pakistan had been considered by the international community as a wrong committed by Pakistan against India. Lord Mountbatten had made it clear at the time that Pakistan was guilty of aggression. In 1954 the Constituent Assembly of J & K ratified the Instrument of Accession and a final formal sanction was accorded to the accession in November, 1956 by the people in the democratically elected Constituent Assembly. So the only dispute that was before the UN was the aggression by Pakistan.

Since May 1948, Pakistan had admitted the fact of aggression and a resolution existed which had been passed by the UN requiring Pakistan to vacate the territory occupied by it by aggression. So it stands proved that Pakistan is guilty of an international delinquency and it is reasonably expected of the big powers that they enforce the UN resolutions and avenge the wrongs. Now if the U.S. were to challenge this position, it would then amount to a challenge to the Government of India Act, 1947 itself and it can be said that India would be justified in disputing the very existence of Pakistan.

It is painful to note that a great democracy like the U.S. purporting to champion the cause of liberty and human rights should, while acting beyond its own borders, adopt dictatorial means while dealing with international problems. A bare examination of the issue would show that considerations underlying the U.S. policy were never legal or constitutional. It knew that the existence of disputes between States was essential for its marketing of the arms and ammunition. For selling its arms and ammunition it had to ensure that disputes between the States continued. Be it the Koreas or be it India and Pakistan, it was always this commercial interest that led it to overlook the legal, democratic, and human considerations. Any understanding that would develop between India and Pakistan could to an extent adversely affect the U.S. business. After the dissolution of the

USSR, the U.S. has gone unbridled and in recent times it has not much respected principles of international equality and independence of other States. The statement made by Ms. Robin Raphel was not the individual view of the person. It is nothing but an intervention by tbe U.S. in the internal affairs of India.

Kashmir is a case of accession. There had been in the past cases of annexation to which the U.S. had never raised any objections. Would it not be possible to say that the purchase of Alaska by the U.S. was wrong or that the annexation of Mexican territories and Louisiana were illegal. The Clinton Administration appears to be anxious to oblige Pakistan by making claims for and in favour of Pakistan which Pakistan itself has never made.

It appears that India will have to take a tough stand on all the issues in the UN. The biggest democracy of the world has always been either humiliated or neglected in the UN while States like China could force their way even in the Security Council simply because of their tough stand in international matters and this toughness has softened the U.S. so much that President Clinton has gone to the extent of announcing U.S. 'policy' of settling down differences with China. The very fact that a democracy with 900 million people should not find place in international policy-making bodies itself is an indicator of the design of some of the big powers. The time has come when we must call a spade a spade and state it positively that USA has done a wrong to us and has done a wrong to international community by violating the rules of international law. If the Government of India were to take a milder view of the matter it would allow the erstwhile problem of regaining the occupied territory to be aggravated into a dispute about the whole of Jammu & Kashmir to be followed by similar disputes about the territories of other border States. This is also the time when international community should be made aware of the U.S. wrong and put its seriousness in proper perspective or history may not forgive us.

Iran

Tehran Reports Rushdie's Meeting with Clinton

NC2511071393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] The U.S. President met with *Satanic Verses* author Salman Rushdie yesterday. The White House's public relations officer said that Clinton arrived at the place where the secretary of state was meeting with Rushdie without prior notice. A Clinton administration official said that the White House meeting took place at Salman Rushdie's request.

State Department Warns Americans Overseas

LD2511205093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] The U.S. State Department has warned its nationals living abroad to watch out for their lives. The warning came after Salman Rushdie, the author of the insulting book *Satanic Verses* met with U.S. President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the White House.

The French news agency reported from Washington that U.S. embassies in various countries have warned U.S. nationals by issuing statements.

Spokesman Assails 'Divisive' GCC Stances

LD2411204793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] A spokesman of our country's Foreign Ministry has described the recent stances of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] as divisive and while criticizing them he said: We do not believe in any kind of division in the Persian Gulf littoral states' collective security and we believe that the adoption of such stances are detrimental to the region's collective security and interests.

The spokesman added: The security and collective interests of all Persian Gulf countries are intertwined and creation of any kind of crisis, followed by regional instability, would threaten the security of all regional countries. He noted two foreign-engineered crises in the Persian Gulf region [Iran-Iraq war; Iraqi invasion of Kuwait] and said: During the last two crises all regional countries suffered and we expect the member countries of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, instead of adopting such decisions and stances, to endeavor to remove misunderstandings and to try to maintain security and collective interests.

He said: We welcome bilateral talks with the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and continue to look forward to the visit to Tehran by the UAE officials.

On the appointment of a new governor for Abu Musa, our country's Foreign Ministry spokesman said: Evidently, when a governor's term of office ends, a new governor is appointed and the regional press should show complete vigilance not to become a tool in the hands of the Western news agencies.

He also described the recent claims of the Tel Aviv authorities, that an Israeli pilot who raided southern Lebanon had been transferred to Tehran, as being an utter lie and a propaganda ploy on the part of the Jerusalem-occupying regime, which is trying to move out of its political isolation.

Oil Minister Comments on OPEC Session

LD2511225393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Interview with Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, by unidentified Central News Unit economic correspondent, in Tehran on 25 November—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] The oil ministers of 12 member-countries of OPEC ended their two-day session in Vienna by extending the production ceiling of 24,520,000 barrels [per day] which was set during an earlier session two months ago. I am asking Mr. Aqazadeh to explain the outcome of the OPEC decisions on oil markets.

[Aqazadeh] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The session is held twice a year according to schedule. This session coincided with a reduction in oil prices. For that reason the talks mostly concentrated on the reasons for the price reduction during the recent months.

As for the most important issues discussed: The [production] ceiling determined for six months in the last session was deemed to be acceptable and appropriate by the ministers. Meanwhile the increased North Sea oil production has resulted in serious fluctuations in the prices. Even though we were once again asking for the production ceiling to be reduced, the majority of the ministers failed to agree and it was stressed that the previous ceiling should be maintained. They expect the prices to strengthen after short-term fluctuations of one or two weeks.

That was why we could not agree on a new ceiling during the session and the previous ceiling was extended to the end of this winter. It was decided that the committee monitoring the market should assess the market more closely. Taking into account the approaching winter, the situation is expected to be remedied to a certain extent.

[Correspondent] OPEC has stressed that OPEC and non-OPEC producers should have a joint responsibility in the stability of the market and oil prices. Are there going to be joint talks with non-OPEC producers on this issue?

[Aqazadeh] Yes. Taking into account that price maintenance is the joint responsibility of all producers, whether OPEC or non-OPEC producers, OPEC expects that non-OPEC producers should also regulate their output more responsibly. It was decided to try and regulate the market in a joint effort during contacts the secretary general is to make, and also in an expert session in Yemen with non-OPEC producers, as well as meetings between the conference chairman and major non-OPEC producers—already held or to be held.

Commentary Assesses Results of OPEC Session

LD2511133693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The oil ministers of 12 OPEC member-countries ended its 95th session after three days of discussions. The purpose of this session was to find ways of achieving a fair price for oil in the international market. Prior to this [Vienna] session, economic experts predicted that OPEC members would lower their production in order to raise prices. But the members agreed to a production ceiling of 24.50 million barrels per day for the forthcoming months.

According to oil analysts, this production ceiling does not seem to be logical if the conditions governing the oil market are taken into account. Analysts believe that if the OPEC member-countries really wish to increase oil prices, they should have the same production level that they had before the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq.

With the start of the Persian Gulf crisis and the halt of oil exports by Iraq and Kuwait, the rest of OPEC's members adopted the quota system and filled the void left by these two countries' 4 million barrels in the oil market.

According to oil experts, the supply of ample oil in the market and the high volume of production of some of OPEC's members—without the rest of the members having reverted back to their precrisis quotas, and along with the extra supply coming from non-OPEC member countries—will create new problems for OPEC, and once again, the price of this vital commodity will fall even more. This likely danger will become very real with Iraq joining the oil producing countries.

According to economic experts, in addition to internal factors in OPEC, which cause reductions in prices, external factors have also contributed to falls in oil prices. On the basis of documents related to Gerald Ford's administration, which were published in Washington, 16 years ago, the American Government, on the pretext of protecting the Iraqi region, planned on controlling the oil resources of the Persian Gulf. This plan was finally put into practice by the Bush government.

Another factor which has destabilized the oil market is the unprecedented and long recession of the world's three economic poles—that is, Europe, America, and Japan. [passage omitted]. As one of the world's major oil consumers, America, during economic growth, can absorb any surplus oil in the world and prevent falls in the price of oil. OPEC is now burdened by a new problem—the increase in non-OPEC member countries' oil production. [passage omitted] But a very important point which should be noted: Bearing in mind international changes and developments, and the fact that Western countries are trying to reduce their economies' dependence on oil, does the continuation of this trend, in this form, appear logical? Do the OPEC member-countries have to continue trying to increase their production and export it as crude? Or should they not use this God-given blessing toward developing the rest of their (?economic) sectors?

The sensitivity of oil in the Persian Gulf and the existence of tensions and crises, as well as the influence of foreigners in this region make us aware of this point—that we should rescue our economy from a state of single-commodity dependency. This is because even the smallest tension in this region can create many crises in our oil-dependent economy. Instead of embarking on the export of crude oil, we should try to expand our petrochemical industries and to transform this vital substance into new products. We should then sell these products at a higher, added value, and use the revenues thus obtained to invest in the agricultural and industrial sectors. In this way, we should be able to vary our exports and to prepare the necessary grounds for employment-creating projects.

It should be said, in conclusion, that extreme fluctuations in oil prices over the past few decades has proved that no country can achieve its own well-being at the cost of inflicting economic losses on others. The establishment of an acceptable stability in the oil market necessitates cooperation on the part of all oil-producing and consuming countries. In order to arrive at such an objective, there is need for a climate of understanding, and it is under the umbrella of this climate of understanding that oil-producing countries—the majority of whom are countries of the Third World—can, by adopting principled policies, move toward growth and development.

Attack on Reservoir Would Mean 'Clash' With Armenia

NC2511201593 Istanbul OZGUR GUNDEM in Turkish 22 Nov 93 p 4

[Text] The Iranian Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati said that if the reservoir on the Iranian-Azerbaijani border is threatened, Iran will clash with the Armenians.

In an interview in HAMSHAHRI, Besharati said that "Iran warned the Armenians several times and drew a red line close to its borders," and added "for the Armenians to cross this line would mean provoking a clash with us."

The interior minister said: "This reservoir was built with the cooperation between ourselves and the Azerbaijanis. That is why an attack on it means an attack on us. We are trying to remain [word illegible] in this war, and want the disputes to be solved through talks."

In connection with the bomb attacks on the French Embassy and airlines in Tehran, Besharati said that "there certainly will be no condoning of such attacks."

On the question of legalizing the political parties, the interior minister argued that the non-existence of political parties in his country is due to the fact that the former parties could not gain the people's trust. Indicating that political parties could operate provided they abide by the Constitution, Besharati said that so far 50 parties have been given permission to function.

Besharati advised that if the political parties intending to operate do not want to be isolated once again, they should provide a place for Islam in their programs.

In the meantime, the Armenian community in Iran announced that there is no discrimination against the religious minorities in Iran. Indicating that the Armenians of Iran are benefiting from every constitutional right, the religious leader of the Iranian Armenians Artak Manukyan said that the claims made in the report of the UN Human Rights Committee that "the religious minorities in this country are being oppressed" are unfounded.

Iran To Acquire 30 Russian Helicopters

NC2511173293 Paris AFP in English 1514 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov 25 (AFP)—Iran plans to buy or lease 30 Russian helicopters, including the giant MI-26, to ferry passengers and for relief operations, RESALAT newspaper announced Thursday.

The order includes 10 MI-26, the world's largest helicopter, it said.

Several Russian helicopters are already used to carry passengers to and from Gulf islands off southern Iran.

Indonesian President Suharto, Delegation Continue Visit

Meets Khamene'i

LD2411121393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] This morning, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the eminent leader of the Islamic revolution, received the president of Muslim Indonesia, Mr Suharto, and the high-ranking delegation accompanying him. During the meeting, which was also attended by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and by a number of ministers from both countries, the Vali-e Amr-e Moslemin [Khamene'i] stressed the importance of cooperation between Islamic countries in various fields. He said: We firmly believe that strengthening the Islamic dimension within the framework of relations between Islamic countries will bring more than one billion Muslims in the world closer to one another, and will remove the grounds for discord and disunity between these countries.

The eminent leader stressed the immensely important role that affinity among Muslim countries can play in the development of these countries and for enhancement of their international strength. He added: Sincere cooperation among the Muslim countries will have a very significant impact on conditions in all of these countries. This is because many Muslim countries enjoy unique resources by which they can assist and complement each other.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i placed emphasis on the Islamic Republic of Iran's willingness to cooperate in a serious way with Muslim countries. He added: Indonesia is an important Muslim country, and we attach great importance to this great Muslim country. The two powerful Muslim countries, Iran and Indonesia, are able to do many things, and what we have in common points to the need for greater familiarization and firmer ties between the two countries.

The Vali-e Amr-e Moslemin also expressed hope that the visit by the Indonesian president will benefit both nations and consolidate bilateral cooperation more than ever.

During the meeting, Mr. Suharto expressed his pleasure in holding a meeting with the eminent leader, and said: I convey the warm greetings of 183 million Indonesians—88 percent of whom are Muslims—to the leader of the Islamic revolution.

Moreover, he presented a report to the eminent leader, explaining various efforts and plans which are taking place in his country for the purpose of achieving national development.

Holds Talks With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD2411145193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Indonesian President Suharto today discussed international and regional issues, the Islamic Conference Organization, the need to strengthen the Nonaligned Movement, closer coopertation in OPEC, and ways of expanding commercial and economic, oil, shipping, and aviation cooperation.

During the talks, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked the Indonesian president for his visit to Iran and noted Indonesia's valuable role as the Islamic country with the largest population. He said: The problems of Islam and the region call for greater cooperation and exchanges of opinion between the two countries aimed at helping to solve the problems of Islamic countries.

The president considered that the problems of the world of Islam, including those of Palestine, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Afghanistan, Kashmir, Azerbaijan, and Somalia stem from the injustice of global arrogance. He added: On the world political scene, we are currently seeing that the unipolar order is being exploited for a new illegal presence in the countries of the world and Islamic and nonaligned countries. Therefore, powerful Islamic countries, the Nonaligned Movement, and the Islamic Conference—especially Indonesia as the leading member of the Nonaligned Movement—shoulder a heavy responsibility and should, by adopting a more active approach and better use of their resources and strength, not allow such a blatant injustice to be committed against the rights of the world's helpless countries.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the very favorable grounds for cooperation between Iran and Indonesia and said: Following up the agreements achieved between the two countries and their implementation in the oil, textiles, synthethic fiber industries and matters relating to air and sea transportation and cooperation in finding ways of assisting the newly independent countries of Central Asia and their access to free international waters requires more effort and seriousness on the part of the two countries' joint commissions.

The president emphasized that the OPEC members, notably Iran and Indonesia as two important members of that organization, should all make joint efforts to stabilize oil prices at a fair level and prevent the violation of the rights of producer-countries. He expressed hope that the outcome of the visit by Indonesia's high-ranking delegation to Iran and bilateral talks, will benefit the peoples of the two countries, the region, and the world.

According to the Central News Unit, at the meeting, which was also attended by the two countries' ministers of foreign affairs, heads of the joint commissions, and a number of their officials, Indonesian President Suharto expressed delight at his visit to Iran and hoped that the visit will provide a suitable opportunity for mutual understanding, greater cooperation, and improvement in the economic situation of the two countries.

He pointed out that Iran and Indonesia are in the process of development and said: The two countries enjoy very good cooperation, especially in the trade and economic fields. The private sectors of the two countres should become active in order to make better use of these resources.

Mr. Suharto also considered that the exchange of experience between the two countries in the fields of aircraft production, helicopters and ships, and the utilization of oil resources and refineries, are steps toward increasing economic cooperation between the two countries in the future.

He pointed to the important role played by the Islamic Republic of Iran in the transit of goods from other countries, especially from Indonesia, to central Asian countries. He said: We hope that a joint delegation from the two countries will succeed in finding ways to provide Indonesia with access to the markets of Central Asian countries and to have trade and economic exchanges with these countries through Iran.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the Indonesian president referred to the current problems of the world and said:

Indonesia as the head of the Nonaligned Movement and as a populous Islamic country, has deployed all its efforts to assist in eliminating the problems of Islamic member-countries, and will continue to do so.

Mr. Suharto reminded that the endeavors of the Nonaligned Movement conference were directed at reducing pressures on the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina. He said: We hope that through greater assistance from member-countries, we shall be able to play a more active role on the international and regional scenes. He also expressed hope that in OPEC's next session, member-countries will be able to succeed in stabilizing the price of oil and prevent its fall.

Bilateral relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Indonesia and an all-embracing increase in these cooperation and also the latest situation of the Nonaligned Movement, were discussed at this morning's morning between Mr. Ali al-Attas, foreign Minister of Indonesia and Mr. Velyati. The importance of developing bilateral relations was emphasized.

Foreign Ministers Discuss Central Asia

LD2411164293 Tehran IRNA in English 1310 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 24, IRNA—The visiting Indonesian Foreign Minister, Ali Alatas, and his Iranian counterpart, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, here Wednesday [24 November] discussed the latest developements within the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) as well as Tehran-Jakarta relations.

Referring to the recent Central Asian tour of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Velayati outlined Tehran's policy toward the Caucasus and the Central Asian republics .

Velayati said that Iran as the most suitable channel will provide a bridge between Indonesia and the Central Asian republics and the caucasus.

Alatas, who arrived here Tuesday accompanying the Indonesian president on a four-day visit, welcomed the idea and stressed that Jakarta intends to expand its relations with the Central Asian region.

He expressed pleasure with Iran's friendly relations with the Central Asian republics and said that undoubtedly Tehran and Jakarta will have a close cooperation on Central Asian republics.

Alatas stated that Indonesia as the head of the NAM will spare no efforts to activate the movement and is highly interested in exchanging views with the Iranian officials in this regard.

Joint Communique Released

LD2611124993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] A joint communique was released at the end of the official visit to our country by the Indonesian president and the high-ranking delegation accompanying him. According to our correspondent, referring to the issues discussed between the presidents of the two countries, the communique stresses the importance of the all-round expansion of relations through scientific, technical, commercial and economic cooperation and the exchange of the experience gained in development and reconstruction.

The need to establish contact between the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO], and the Association of Southeast Asian Countries [ASEAN], and also South-South cooperation, are among the issues included in the joint communique.

Referring to the current crises in the world, particularly the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Palestine, Somalia, Central Asia and the Caucasus, Afghanistan, and Cambodia, the communique describes the fulfillment of the undeniable rights of the people of Palestine as the most fundamental prerequisite for the establishment of peace in the region.

In another part of the communique, expressing concern about the tragic situation facing the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the presidents of the two countries call on the UN Security Council to lift the arms embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina. The two countries also express their firm determination to strengthen the Nonaligned Movement and stress the need to adopt suitable ways to deal with the fresh consequences of adverse global developments.

The Tehran-Djakarta joint communique emphasizes the commitment of the two countries to strive to peacefully resolve international conflicts and also the necessity for international organizations to adhere to the principles of truth-seeking, neutrality and openness.

The presidents of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Indonesia reject double standards, prejudiced behavior and the misuse of human rights. They declare their support for a world devoid of nuclear and biological weapons.

Suharto Ends Visit

LD2611114693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] The Indonesian president [Suharto] was officially seen off by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning. He left Tehran for Djakarta after his four-day visit to our country. Our correspondent reports on the talks between the presidents of the two countries and the ending of Mr. Suharto's visit.

The presidents of the two countries discussed the expansion of bilateral ties, conferred and agreed on regional and international issues, the ways for the Nonaligned Movement to become more active, and OPEC's current issues.

In an interview with the Central News Unit before leaving Tehran, the Indonesian president, Mr. Suharto, praising the hospitality of the Muslim government and nation of Iran, said: Indonesia and Iran have carried out most useful discussions over bilateral cooperation and achieved total agreement regarding commercial, scientific, technical and technological fields.

According to the Indonesian president the two countries will be cooperating closely in the fields of aircraft, ship and helicopter manufacture, and transportation. Mr. Suharto stressed his satisfaction over ending his visit to Iran by achieving the most positive results and expressed the hope that in the forthcoming visit to Indonesia by the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the cordial relations between the two countries will be further strengthened.

Our country's president, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, also spoke about the outcome of his talks with his Indonesian counterpart. He said:

[Begin Rafsanjani recording] We are most satisfied with the talks that were held. It was a good opportunity to discuss all the issues of interest to the two sides, and the opportunity was well exploited. Most of our discussions concerned cooperation issues between the two countries. I described instances of the two countries' cooperation to Mr. Suharto, so I will not repeat them. Our talks were not limited to specific areas. In all the fields of cooperation with foreign countries, the possibilities for them exist in Indonesia; the cooperation is very broad.

Other issues discussed in our talks concerned global and regional issues, our own region and the Islamic states. Regarding Bosnia, Palestine, Somalia, Afghanistan, as well as the Central Asian countries, Caucasia and OPEC issues, we held separate discussions and exchanged views. Certainly those exchanges can be most effective in changing the situation in those areas and improving the hard conditions which unfortunately beset those crisis-torn regions.

We also held discussions on the nonaligned states and the Islamic Conference; we decided to continue those talks. We will complete those parts of our talks which are unfinished. [end recording]

Basij Forces Hold 'Khandaq' Defense Exercises

LD2411204993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Summary] Urban defense exercises called Khandaq were held all over the country this afternoon on the fifth day of the Basij [Mobilization] week which has been named the day of mobilization, urban defense, and local resistance.

Brigadier General Afshar, commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Basij Resistance Forces said 122,000 forces participated in the exercises which were staged in 170 towns. He said: "With the leader's approval we have already started the presentation of the four ranks which have been allocated to the Basij Forces." He said the ranks were Mojahed, Daryadel, Razmju, and Razmandeh, the first being the highest and the last the lowest rank. So far more than 900 Basijis have been awarded their ranks.

He said Basij ranks were honorary and had no connection with those of the military. They had an importance only within the Basij and expressed the level of self-sacrifice and spiritual value of the basijis.

Official Denies Reports of Arrests

LD2511103693 Tehran IRNA in English 1018 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 25, IRNA—A senior official of Basij (volunteer) forces here Thursday [25 November] denied a report by the Italian news agency, ANSA, yesterday, alleging that people were stopped and taken to police station by Basij forces in the course of 'Khandaq' maneuvers.

The maneuvers conducted here Wednesday as part of the programs to mark 'Basij Week' which ends tomorrow.

ANSA also referred to the maneuvers as severe control over Tehran by Basij forces.

ANSA correspondent here, who apparently noticed only young adults among the Basij forces, reported that armed teenagers under fifteen years of age, could stop people in the streets to check them and would take any suspect to the police station.

The official told IRNA that the objective of the maneuvers was to show combat readiness of the Basij forces.

"Basij is a popular institution in which all members of the society, including men, women and young adults can become a member," the official noted.

Shaqaqi Interviewed on Palestinian Issues

NC2411191993 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 18 Oct 93 p 12

[Second and last part of an "exclusive" interview with Islamic Jihad General Secretary Fathi Shaqaqi; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [ETTELA'AT] In view of the economic assistance that is to be extended to the area in question, do you think that the number of people who support the peace plan will increase?

[Shaqaqi] There is no doubt that the economic growth and the improvement of the economic situation will be a part of this accord and will help it to continue. However, we know that the Gaza area is extremely poor and that during the intifadah the poverty has intensified. Billions of dollars in investments are needed to improve the region's economy to a suitable level. The international coordination that we see within the framework of this assistance are also aimed at supporting the accord. In the accord that was signed in Washington during a session that was attended by 43 foreign ministers, it was decided to allocate $2 billion for Gaza and Jericho during the next five years. But this amount is not enough for the economic development of Gaza. Moreover, we know that the PLO has a corrupt administrative system and has no qualms about further weakening and destroying Palestine's economy. It has 25 years of experience in corruption, and the people will see how they will again waste billions of dollars.

[ETTELA'AT] Is it true that America has said that it will help in Lebanon's reconstruction only if the Palestinians living in Lebanon are granted permanent residence there?

[Shaqaqi] I am not aware of this. But America is striving for all the Palestinian refugees who are living in any area or country to be granted permanent residence there.

[ETTELA'AT] How do you foresee the PLO's future?

[Shaqaqi] We are now in the wake of the formation of another organization. The 10 groups [opposing the Gaza-Jericho accord] are now studying the formation of a new organization without 'Arafat.

With the new political order that prevails, if this organization is formed it will face many pressures and limitations. But it can remain and continue to be and say that it is an organization that represents the Palestinian nation. This organization questions 'Arafat's legitimacy and opposes whatever 'Arafat has done. 'Arafat's organization is assuming autonomous rule and today the PLO has become the Gaza-Jericho organization.

[ETTELA'AT] Since the 10 groups were unsuccessful in their initial goal, which is opposition to the autonomy and self-rule administration declared for Gaza and Jericho, do you think that they will be successful in achieving other goals?

[Shaqaqi] The groups should try their best. The conditions that they are facing are extremely difficult and international forces are against them. Before I came to Tehran, even the Russian Embassy in Damascus was issuing warnings that the 10 groups should not oppose the Gaza-Jericho accord. The same applies to the stance of the Arab countries, which either oppose the 10 groups or are unable to take any effective step in favor of these groups. These groups are alone under such difficult conditions. They should rely and trust the alertness and the combative character of the Palestinian nation inside Palestine.

[ETTELA'AT] As you know, the 10 Palestinian groups include a wide spectrum of forces. Is the objective that they want to attain strategic or tactical in nature? Have they all been able to achieve a common policy? What are their objectives and how do they want to replace the PLO?

[Shaqaqi] There are ideological and policy differences among the 10 groups. For example, there are groups with denominational and even Marxist beliefs and there are also Islamic groups. As far as policy is concerned, some groups believe in the complete liberation of Palestine while others believe in the formation of a Palestinian government on the West Bank and Gaza. But we believe that there is a common line among all the groups. Ideological issues should have their own place. In view of the significance that anti-Zionist struggles have for us, we should cooperate with any side that is the enemy of Zionism. Some of the groups want the West Bank and Gaza to be liberated. But we want all of the Palestinian territory to be liberated. In other words, we have a common route to travel and we can cooperate in reaching the end of this route. At least under the current conditions, all of us believe in expanding the intifadah and the armed struggle and are against the 'Arafat-Israeli accord. At this stage these common points are enough for us to achieve concordance.

[ETTELA'AT] Who will be the leader of this new group?

[Shaqaqi] All of us are trying to form a preliminary committee that will pave the way for an extensive national conference in which the 10 groups, independent personalities, and popular forces will participate. During that conference the issue of whether a new front or a new organization should be established will be studied. We stress that a new organization should be established. But we are not thinking about the issue of leadership before the idea for a new organization takes shape. We will cross that bridge when we come to it.

[ETTELA'AT] The issue of a civil war by the Palestinian groups that oppose the Gaza-Jericho accord has been described as a thin red line. However, some groups stress the need for the continuation of the intifadah. If there is friction between these two issues, which one do you prefer? Do you prefer a continuation of the intifadah even if this means clashing with the Palestinian police or will you opt for preventing a civil war?

[Shaqaqi] We believe that the Islamic forces and the groups inside Palestine are very careful to prevent a civil war. We are also trying to use all possible means to prevent this.

'Arafat is trying to start a civil war. But we do not accept this. Therefore, there is an important issue at stake here. We defend our right to fight against the enemy and will never stop fighting the enemy, even though 'Arafat's police force will want to crush these struggles.

[ETTELA'AT] Do you accept Kissinger's view that the permanent peace that 'Arafat and Israel envisage may turn into a new war?

[Shaqaqi] Their peace, with its specifications, will lead to war. Their peace includes all the elements for instability. When such elements exist, war will break out. Many people think that a war will break out because they ['Arafat and Israel] are striving to strengthen the basis for the absence of stability which, in itself, means war because throughout history it has never been possible to use force to impose peace. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] The Lebanese press has reported that Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has said that by the end of 1993 an agreement will be signed between Syria and Lebanon on the one hand and Israel on the other. This has also been confirmed by other officials, namely by American officials. What is your opinion on this?

[Shaqaqi] What Faris Buwayz has said is not improbable. I do not believe that the Syrian-Israeli peace accord will be signed before the end of the current year, but this accord will be signed. However, it will take more time. Talks may last for a year. Moreover, there are other efforts under way to separate Lebanon from Syria. But this is not possible. Lebanon, in its current situation, is a greater priority than the Golan Heights for Syria. If Buwayz spoke about a Lebanese-Israeli peace pact, this also would not be improbable, unless Syria makes its stance on this issue very clear.

[ETTELA'AT] If a peace pact is signed between the Arabs and Israelis, what will the situation be for the Palestinian and Lebanese groups in Lebanon and Syria, such as the Islamic Jihad and even the Lebanese Hizballah?

[Shaqaqi] As far as we are concerned, we will be under pressure as Palestinians with Islamic tendencies. But our main efforts are inside Palestine. Our organization will not be greatly harmed because we do not have many members outside Palestine. Our combats and jihad will continue at home while our limited existence abroad may turn into an underground movement that will act in various forms and at various times, as conditions call for. The truth is that the problems of the Islamic groups are lesser than the problems of other groups because our main base is inside Palestine.

[ETTELA'AT] Israel has declared that it opposes the formation of an independent Palestinian country but agrees to a confederation. What special characteristics will a confederation have?

[Shaqaqi] First of all, the issue of confederation is a hypothesis and no agreement has been made on it yet. If an agreement is reached on this, the Palestinians may face a situation similar to that of Luxembourg in the Benelux countries, which also includes the Netherlands and Belgium. Luxembourg does not have full independence. The Palestinians may have a similar situation in a confederation.

[ETTELA'AT] What is your opinion on unity among the various Palestinian groups that oppose the compromise agreement?

[Shaqaqi] There are a very few Palestinian groups with Marxist inclinations. These groups are almost nonexistent and only have a mention in history. We are not afraid of them.

There are more nationalist groups. However, these groups are lesser than the Islamic groups and we can absorb them.

We believe that the Islamic groups should unite and that we should strive to achieve this unity. But unity does not prevent a coalition with others. The formation of the 10 groups has allowed Islamic groups more possibilities for contacts.

Nepal

Communists Stage Protest, Demand Koirala Resign

BK2611104293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1017 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 26 (AFP)—Nepal's four communist factions Friday picketed district offices across the country, demanding the resignation of Nepali Congress (NC) Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, communist party sources said.

The four factions included the United Peoples Front (UPF), the Nepal Workers and Peasants Party, the Nepal Communist Party-Marxist, Leninist and Maoist and the Nepal Communist Party-Mashal.

Home Ministry sources said the protests went peacefully in Patan and Kathmandu and there were no arrests. Only a handful of protestors turned up and it was largely peaceful, the sources added.

They also said no communist picketers had shown up in some districts.

The coordinator of UPF, the largest among the four factions, Baburam Bhattarai said: "Reports from districts are still arriving and it is too early to say anything." UPF has nine seats in the 205-member House of Representatives, the lower house of parliament.

Earlier, the communist agitation lost some momentum as Nepal's main opposition party, the Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist Leninist (NCP-UML) signed a nine-point truce on August 17 with the ruling NC.

NCP-UML now accuses the NC of back-tracking on its earlier promises and has repeatedly threatened to join hands with other communist forces if the agreement is not fulfilled soon.

NCP-UML president Man Mohan Adhiakri said Friday: "If they (NC) force us, we will rise up to the challenge. We can't tell at present what the party will do and what our programmes are going to be."

"But the party has to take some decisions if the Nepali Congress back-pedals on its truce terms," Adhikari added.

Besides the resignation of the NC Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, other demands included the reinstatement of government employees dismissed for agitation in 1991 and an independent investigation into the May 16 jeep accident in which then NCP-UML general secretary Madan Bhandari was killed.

PRC's Li Ruihuan Arrives on Official Visit

BK2511115093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1110 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 25 (AFP)—A senior Chinese communist official arrived here Thursday for an official visit on the invitation of the chairman of Nepal's upper house of parliament, Beni Bahadur Karki.

Li Ruihuan is chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), an advisory group to the party.

Li will make a courtesy call to Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala Friday. He is also scheduled to meet the speaker of the house of representatives, Damannath Dhungana, official sources said.

Li will visit India and Pakistan after he completes the Nepal tour, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

The visit is considered friendly, with no official agenda for discussions, the ministry sources added.

Pakistan

Bhutto Views Kashmir, Pressler Amendment

BK2511101293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0900 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto announced that Pakistan will have substantive and objective talks with India on the Kashmir dispute this January and the question of Kashmir will be a totally separate item on the agenda. Addressing a meeting of senior editors of Pakistani newspapers in Islamabad today, she said the talks on Kashmir are an important step forward for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The agreement to hold talks between India and Pakistan shows that Kashmir is a disputed territory and needs resolution through dialogue.

Giving the background of the Kashmir bilateral talks agreement, she said that Pakistan made it clear to India that before the two sides agree to hold a dialogue on Kashmir, India will have to improve the human rights situation in occupied Kashmir which had deteriorated due to the siege of Hazratbal shrine. Second, India will also agree to hold substantive talks on the Kashmir issue so the dialogue is not held without any purpose and the two sides have a clear-cut separate agenda.

The prime minister paid tribute to the sacrifices of Kashmiris and said she salutes Kashmiris, especially those Kashmiris who were inside the Hazratbal shrine and, through their resolute stand and courage, brought the world's attention toward the Kashmir dispute and made India realize the gravity of the situation.

The prime minister also categorically spoke on the proposal of third option [preceding word in English] for Kashmir [independent state of Jammu and Kashmir] circulated by some vested interests and said Pakistan was opposed to such schemes because they are neither in the interest of the region nor in the interest of Kashmiris themselves. She said the people of Kashmir will not fall prey to such machinations of their opponents. The prime minister added schemes like these are being propagated with ulterior motives to promote the Balkanization of the subcontinent.

Benazir Bhutto stated categorically that the nuclear program of Pakistan was completely peaceful and Pakistan will not in any way compromise its vital security interests. There is a national consensus on Pakistan's nuclear program. The nation is united and all the previous four governments have consistently maintained the same position on this issue. There will be no roll back [preceding two words in English] of the program, she maintained.

The prime minister said Pakistan made it clear to the United States that if it wants to stop nuclear proliferation in this region, it should adopt a nondiscriminatory attitude and review the Pressler Amendment because the amendment is unjustifiably punishing Pakistan while India is benefiting. She said all governments coming to power in Pakistan had put forward many proposals for nuclear nonproliferation in the region, but India did not agree with any of these proposals. That is why Pakistan had to tell the United States that India should be made to realize that without its cooperation the objective of nuclear nonproliferation in the region cannot be achieved.

About the situation within the country, the prime minister said the present government aims to enhance Pakistan's prestige at the international level and establish its status as an economically developed country. She said the government is preparing a plan to produce energy through hydro-electric and thermal power stations and it is working on (Wazhe Dharota) project. The World Bank will support this project which will produce 2,400 megawatts of power which will be distributed throughout Pakistan. She described the project as [word indistinct]. The prime minister also mentioned the Kalabagh Dam and said her government will take all provinces into confidence so the project can be implemented after necessary changes and no province has any complaints about it. If the government is successful in completing the project, it will be a great achievement for the nation.

Further on Bhutto's Policy Statement

BK2511150493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] In a major policy statement, Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto has spelt out an eight-point agenda of her government. The agenda lays strong emphasis on country's foreign policy ending isolation of Pakistan from comity of nations and providing socioeconomic justice to the people of Pakistan. Other priority items on her agenda are promotion of education at all levels, human resource development program, expansion of national energy output program, social development programs, including mother and child care, and eradication of narcotics-related crimes. In a candid and frank address to the editors of all the national dailies and periodicals and electronic media, the prime minister said ours is a social democratic government and our objectives are to achieve a welfare society for the nation where all the segments will have their proper share in the national development.

Dealing point-to-point with her agenda of priorities, Ms. Benazir Bhutto first spoke on the country's foreign policy and said we will have to restore Pakistan's honor and prestige in the comity of nations as it was close to isolation and on the verge of being declared as a terrorist state. She said the main issue at the moment is the Kashmir problem. Terming the resumption of Pakistan-India talks on Kashmir in January next year as a small but very important step forward, the prime minister said India has agreed to discuss the Kashmir issue as a separate agenda item. This is a great achievement. She said soon after taking over as the prime minister, she decided to participate in the Limassol Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference so as to project the Kashmir issue in the wake of Hazratbal incident and a new wave of repression and atrocities against the innocent Kashmiris. The issue was forcefully projected in the Commonwealth summit where she explained to the Commonwealth leaders Pakistan's principled policy on Kashmir. She said she explained to the world leaders that maintenance of peace in the region is not possible unless the burning Kashmir issue is resolved. Her government, she said, also made it amply clear to India that no meaningful talks could be resumed unless India lifts the siege of Hazratbal shrine and ends the new spate of repression and violence in the held valley. It was also made clear to India that for having purposeful bilateral talks, it is imperative to have Kashmir issue as a separate item on the agenda to which India has agreed. Maintenance of regional peace is imperative and this is the consideration that Pakistan agreed to resume to the two-way dialogue on Kashmir. The prime minister declared that dignity and prestige of Pakistan is foremost to her government and nothing will be done which undermines our national stand on sovereign dignity.

Replying to a question on a third option for the Kashmiris [independent state of Jammu and Kashmir], the prime minister said the feeling has been floated to divide the Muslim population in Kashmir and to cause damage to the ongoing freedom movement. Pakistan, she added, is against the third option as it is neither in the interest of the region, nor will it benefit the Kashmiris. The people of Kashmir have also outrightly rejected the third option as they will never compromise on their unity.

On Bosnia, the prime minister said this is another global flash point which has become our concern. We have raised the plight of Bosnian Muslims at different international forums and will continue to support them.

Reiterating her policy on Pakistan's peaceful nuclear program, the prime minister declared there is no question of rolling back our nuclear program. Replying to a number of questions on the subject, Ms. Benazir Bhutto said Pakistan's nuclear program was initiated by her father Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and it remains an important responsibility of her government to see its implementation. Now that there is a People's Party government in the country, it is our obligation to safeguard this program of vital national importance. She said while Pakistan supports the nuclear nonproliferation in South Asian region, it is India which has not only detonated a nuclear device, but is unwilling to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Pakistan, she added, had accepted different proposal for the declaration of South Asian region as a nonproliferation zone, but India never cooperated in this respect. Even so we are being punished and discriminated against under the Pressler Amendment and a different policy is being adopted toward India. This is not fair. She said we will negotiate not only the Pressler Amendment, but also the American policy for the South Asian region on nuclear issue with the U.S. Administration.

On the national front, she said her government is pursuing welfare socioeconomic policies, packages of some of which have already been announced and implementation started. Budget deficit, inflation, unemployment, and price hike are certain characteristic of our national economy which required to be addressed to properly and tackled on top-gear priority.

Ms. Benazir Bhutto said that we are making every endeavor to eliminate narcotics-oriented crimes from Pakistan. This country will not belong narco-barons. We will bring a new order where the narcotics trade and horse trading will have no chance to flourish.

The prime minister made it clear that she is a consensus prime minister and not a confrontationist. She will carry out the policy of her government through national consensus and will adopt bipartisan approach for the solution of all the national problems.

U.S. Assessment of South Asian Proliferation Welcomed

BK2611143693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] The foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, has said the removal of Pressler Amendment will be a vindication of Pakistan's principled policy and will clear the way for the traditionally good relations with the United States.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Ministry has welcomed the assessment of the State Department that extension of the Pressler Amendment sanctions do not advance the nonproliferation objectives of the United States in South Asia. This is a position which the new government has persuasively taken up with the United States Administration, particularly during the recent visit to Pakistan of Miss Robin Raphel, assistant secretary of state for South Asia.

While giving the State Department's assessment, the Foreign Office spokesman told our correspondent that it is really an issue that would lie before the Congress in considering the new foreign assistance act. It would determine whether or not there should be any adjustment in the proliferation legislation which is specific to Pakistan.

The spokesman said that Pakistan's broad policy objective is nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia on a nondiscriminatory basis and a reasonable balance in conventional arms strength. The result of the Pressler Amendment is to create a serious strategic imbalance in South Asia which is counterproductive to the very objective sought to be achieved. While the new foreign assistance act is a domestic legislative matter for the United States, it has a far-reaching impact on international relations in South Asia.

The spokesman said we are hopeful that the U.S. Congress will take these factors into consideration in adopting the new foreign assistance act.

Further on Spokesman's Comments

BK2611155093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Pakistan has welcomed the assessment of the U.S. State Department that the sanctions under the Pressler Amendment do not advance the nonproliferation objectives of the United States in South Asia. This is a position which the new Pakistan Government has persuasively taken up with the U.S. Administration, particularly during the recent visit to Pakistan by Miss Robin Raphel, assistant secretary of state for South Asia. A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad today reaffirmed that Pakistan's broad policy objective is nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia on a nondiscriminatory basis and a reasonable balance in conventional arms strength. Pakistan desires to achieve the objective of nuclear nonproliferation in the region either through a bilateral arrangement with India or to solve the issue on a regional basis for which Pakistan had consistently put forward proposals. Both Pakistan and the United States want to achieve this objective, but it cannot be achieved by denying Pakistan the conventional arms needed for its valid defense needs. The result of the Pressler Amendment is to create a serious strategic imbalance in South Asia, which is counterproductive to the very objective it seeks to achieve.

The spokesman said that while the foreign assistance act is a domestic legislative matter for the United States, it has a far-reaching impact on international relations in South Asia. The spokesman said we are hopeful that the U.S. Congress will take these factors into consideration in adopting the new foreign assistance act.

Foreign Minister Views Upcoming Talks With India

BK2511030893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has said Pakistan is ready to hold foreign secretary-level talks with India in anticipation that the human rights situation in occupied Kashmir will be distinctly improved. In a statement in Islamabad yesterday, he said gross human rights violations in occupied Kashmir are a great human tragedy and a cause of growing concern to the international community. He said the offer of talks has been accepted with good intentions for an improvement in peace and human rights conditions. Comprehensive and solid discussions will be held on the resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, he added. Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said Pakistan has always supported a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute through dialogue. He said the Governments of Pakistan and India had accepted in the Simla agreement a meeting between their representatives to further discuss arrangements and a strategy for the final settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, including steps for durable peace and the normalization of ties. He said Pakistan has now decided not to move a resolution at the United Nations on the human rights situation in occupied Kashmir. He added countries friendly to Pakistan, especially Western nations which are strong supporters of the international declaration on human rights, have been apprised of this.

Foreign Minister Meets With Afghan Counterpart

BK2511045193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] The Afghan foreign minister, Amin Arsala, held talks with Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali in Islamabad yesterday. Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali expressed concern over the escalation of military tension in Afghanistan, which has casued armed clashes in various parts of the country. He expressed the hope that leaders of rival mojahedin factions will overcome their differences through peaceful negotiations. The Afghan foreign minister apprised his Pakistani counterpart of the efforts for rehabilitation and reconstruction in Afghanistan. Both leaders also discussed transit facilities for trade and stressed the need for making the 1965 accord effective and for extending most favored nation treatment to each other.

UK To Supply Military Equipment, Aircraft

BK2411115893 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 21 Nov 93 pp 1, 8

[By Javed Siddiqi]

[Text] Islamabad—It has been learned from reliable sources that the United Kingdom has agreed to supply military equipment, including British-made fighter aircraft and helicopters, to the Pakistan Air Force. Mark Lennox-Boyd, the visiting British minister for South Asian affairs, had hinted that the UK will not link the supply of the military equipment to Pakistan's nuclear program and that Britain is ready to meet Pakistan's defense requirements.

Pakistan has recently acquired Type-21 frigates from the United Kingdom for its navy. According to diplomatic sources, the UK's readiness to supply military hardware to Pakistan after the stoppage of such supplies from the United States, due to the Pressler Amendment, has been described as encouraging for Pakistan. The sources say the United Kingdom is in a position to meet the major defense requirements of Pakistan's air force and the navy. As a sequel to the UK's indication of its readiness to supply defense equipment to Pakistan, high-level delegations of Pakistani and British military experts are expected to exchange visits soon.

Bhutto Invites Sharif for Dialogue on Political Ethics

BK2411082793 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has extended an invitation to Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, president of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Group and leader of the opposition, for a dialogue to frame a code of ethics for conducting political affairs both inside and outside the Parliament. In a letter addressed to him, the prime minister has reaffirmed her pledge to hold consultations with the opposition. She said she is writing this letter to him in light of the sentiments of cooperation and goodwill expressed by him in the Parliament on the occasion of the election of the leader of the House. Benazir Bhutto said the people wish to see the Parliament playing an active and constructive law-making role for the progress and prosperity of the country. In reciprocating these sentiments, she will invite him for a luncheon or reception at the prime minister's house which will provide a good occasion for a dialogue on conducting parliamentary affairs smoothly. The prime minister said they could also discuss the prospects of cooperation regarding legislation in the Parliament on all common issues included in the election manifestos of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Group and the Pakistan People's Party and its allies.

President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has expressed confidence that all political parties will play their role in creating a conducive atmosphere for promoting democracy. He said this while meeting delegations of the Pakistan People's Party, Pakistan Muslim League-Junejo Group, Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam-Fazlur Rahman Group and Pakhtoonkhwa National Party who called on him in Peshawar last evening. The president said the present political structure is a result of the struggle by political parties and it is necessary that the people should reap the fruits of democracy. He said the nation has valid expectations from its elected representatives that they will work for promoting democracy, economic development, and welfare of the common man. The delegation members assured their full cooperation to the government for national development.

Sharif Replies

BK2511050793 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Expressing his determination to play a positive opposition role in Parliament, Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, president of Pakistan Muslim League [PML]-Nawaz Group and the opposition leader in the National Assembly, said that he has strong faith in talks between the government and the opposition. This was expressed in his reply to the prime minister's letter inviting him for talks on cooperating on important national issues. However, Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said the talks would be fruitful only when there is a clear agenda and when some initial groundwork is done before the talks. The opposition leader said he has convened a meeting of the PML Central Working Committee and the Parliament group on Sunday [28 November] to identify various issues. He said we would like to hold consultations with allied parties and soon after he will apprise the prime minister of the results.